

APPENDIX B.

Definitions of Subject Characteristics

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POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

AGE

The Census derived data on age from answers to questionnaire item P5. Age of the person was in complete years as of September 9, 1995. The age responses in question P5a normally represented a person's age. However, when the age response was unacceptable or unavailable, the Census derived a person's age from an acceptable year-of-birth response in question P5b.

Governments use data on age to determine the applicability of other questions for a person and to classify other characteristics in census tabulations. We use age data to interpret most social and economic characteristics used to plan and examine many programs and policies. Therefore, we tabulated age by single years of age and by many different groupings, such as 5-year age groups.

Tabulations showing age of the householder used data from the age responses for each householder. (For more information on householder, see the discussion under "Household Type and Relationship.")

Median Age – The median age measure divides the age distribution into two equal parts: one-half of the cases falling below the median value and one-half above the value. Generally, we compute median age on the basis of more detailed age intervals than shown in some census publications; thus, a median based on a less detailed distribution may differ slightly from a corresponding median for the same population based on a more detailed distribution. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under "Derived Measures.")

Limitation of the Data – Counts in 1970 and 1980 for persons 100 years old and over were substantially overstated. Improvements were made in the questionnaire design and in the allocation procedures to attempt to minimize this problem for both the 1990 and 1995 censuses.

Review of detailed 1995 census information indicated that respondents tended to provide their age as of the date of completion of the questionnaire, not their age as of September 9, 1995. (The Census did not collect age in complete months for infants under age 1.)

Sometimes respondents reported their age as of the day of

enumeration rather than age on September 9, 1995. This type of reporting was likely to have been greater in areas where the census data were collected later in 1995. The magnitude of this problem was greater than in previous censuses where the census derived age from respondent data on year of birth and quarter of birth.

Comparability – Every census collects age data. The 1995 data were not available by quarter year of age since the census coded and tabulated both age and year of birth. Since 1970, in the Northern Mariana Islands, assignment of unknown age had been performed by a general procedure described as "imputation." The specific procedures for imputing age changed for each census. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.)

CITIZENSHIP

The Census derived data on citizenship from answers to questionnaire item P8, asked of all persons. In 1995, "Citizens or nationals" were persons who responded in one of these four categories of citizenship: (1) born in this area, (2) born in the United States or another U.S. Territory or Commonwealth, (3) born elsewhere of U.S. parent or parents, or (4) U.S. citizen by naturalization.

Naturalized citizens were foreign-born persons who had completed the naturalization process at the time of the census and with the rights of citizenship conferred.

Persons "Not a citizen or national" were foreign-born persons who were not citizens, including persons who had begun but not completed the naturalization process at the time of the census. These included persons who resided "permanently" in the CNMI and those who resided only "temporarily" in the CNMI.

Limitation of the Data – Studies after previous censuses showed that some persons undergoing naturalization may have reported themselves as citizens although they had not yet attained the status.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

The Census derived data on educational attainment from answers to questionnaire item P13. Data were tabulated for persons 15 years old and over. Persons were classified according to the highest grade of school completed or the highest degree received. For persons currently enrolled in

school, the question included instructions to report the level of the previous grade attended or the highest degree received. The question included response categories which allowed person to report completing the 12th grade without receiving a high school diploma. Respondents were to report as "high school graduate(s)" persons who received either a high school diploma or the equivalent, for example, passed the Test of General Education Development (G.E.D.), and did not attend college.

Enumerators were instructed that schooling completed in foreign or ungraded school systems should be reported as the equivalent level of schooling in the regular American system; that vocational certificates or diplomas from vocational, trade, or business schools or colleges were not to be reported unless they were college level degrees; and that honorary degrees were not to be reported. The instructions gave "medicine, dentistry, chiropractic medicine, optometry, osteopathic medicine, pharmacy, podiatry, veterinary medicine, law, and theology" as examples of professional school degrees, and specifically excluded "barber school, cosmetology, or other training for a specific trade" from the professional school degree category.

Persons who did not report educational attainment were assigned the attainment of a person of the same age, ethnic origin, and sex who resided in the same or a nearby area.

High School Graduate or Higher—Included persons whose highest degree was a high school diploma or its equivalent, persons who attended college or professional school, and persons who received a college, university, or professional degree. Persons who reported completing the 12th grade but not receiving a diploma were not included.

Not Enrolled, Not High School Graduate—Included persons of compulsory school attendance age or above who were not enrolled in school and were not high school graduates; these persons may be taken to be "high school dropouts." No restriction occurred on when they "dropped out" of school, and they may have never attended high school.

"Percent high school graduate or higher" and "Percent bachelor's degree or higher" were summary measures which can be calculated from the present data and offer quite readily interpretable measures of differences between population subgroups. To make comparisons with data from previous censuses, "Percent high school graduate or higher" can be calculated and "Percent bachelor's degree or higher" can be approximated.

Comparability—Educational attainment questions on years of school completed were first asked in 1970. For persons who had not attended college, the response categories in the 1995 educational attainment question should have produced data which were comparable to data on highest grade completed from earlier censuses.

The 1990 and 1995 Censuses modified response categories for persons who attended college from earlier censuses because some ambiguity existed in interpreting responses

in terms of the number of years of college completed. For instance we could not tell whether "completed the fourth year of college," "completed the senior year of college," and "college graduate" were synonymous. Research conducted shortly before the 1990 census suggested that these terms were more distinct in 1990 and 1995 than in earlier decades and this change may have threatened the ability to estimate the number of "college graduates" from the number of persons reported as having completed the fourth or a higher year of college. It was even more difficult to make inferences about post-baccalaureate degrees and "Associate" degrees from highest year of college completed. Thus, researchers should use great caution when comparing post-secondary educational attainment in this and earlier censuses.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The census derived data on employment status from answers to questionnaire items P21 which were asked of persons 15 years and over. The series of questions on employment status was designed to identify in this sequence: (a) persons who worked at a job or business or farm at any time during the reference week (b) persons who did not do such work during the reference week, but who had jobs or business from which they were temporarily absent (excluding layoff); (c) persons on layoff; and (d) persons who did not work during the reference week, but who were looking for work to earn money.

The employment status data shown in this and other 1995 census reports related to persons 16 years old and over. Some tables showing employment status, however, included 15 year old. By definition, the Census classified these persons as "not in labor force." The 1970 census was the last to show employment data for persons 14 and 15 years old.

Employed—All civilians 16 years old and over who were either (a) "at work"—those who did any work at all during the reference week as paid employees or in their own business or profession, or on their own farm, or who worked 15 or more hours as unpaid workers on a family farm or in a family business; or (b) were "with a job but not at work"—those who did not do such work during the reference week, but who had jobs or businesses from weather, industrial dispute, vacation, or other personal reasons. The Census excluded from the employed persons without jobs or businesses whose only activity consisted of work around the house or unpaid volunteer work for religious, charitable, and similar organizations; persons without jobs or businesses who did subsistence activity only during the reference week; and persons on active duty in the United States Armed Forces.

Unemployed—All civilians 16 years old and over who (a) were neither "at work" nor "with a job but not at work" during the reference week, nor who did subsistence activity only; (b) were looking for work to earn money during the last 4 weeks; and (c) were available to accept a job. Examples of job seeking activities are:

- ! Registering at a public or private employment office
- ! Meeting with prospective employers
- ! Investigating possibilities for starting a professional practice or opening a business
- ! Placing or answering advertisements
- ! Writing letters of application
- ! Being on a union or professional register

The Census also considered as unemployed all civilians 16 years old and over who did not work at a job or business during the reference week and were waiting to be called back to a job from which they had been laid off.

Experienced Unemployed – These were unemployed persons who had worked at any time in the past.

Civilian Labor Force – Consisted of persons classified as employed or unemployed in accordance with the criteria described above.

Experienced Civilian Labor Force – Consisted of the employed and the experienced unemployed.

Labor Force – All persons classified in the civilian labor force plus members of the Armed Forces (persons on active duty with the United States Army, Air Force, Navy, Marine Corps, or Coast Guard).

Not in Labor Force – All persons 16 years old and over who were not classified as members of the labor force. This category consisted mainly of persons doing subsistence activity only, students, housewives, retired workers, seasonal workers enumerated in an "off" season who were not looking for work, institutionalized persons, and persons doing only incidental unpaid family work (less than 15 hours during the reference week).

Subsistence Activity – A person was engaged in subsistence activities if he or she mainly produced goods for his or her own or family's use and needs, such as growing/gathering food, fishing for home use, raising livestock, making handicrafts for home use, and other productive activities not primarily for commercial purposes. Subsistence activity categories shown with the "Employed" and the "Not in labor force" categories of the employment status concept, related to activities engaged in during the census reference week. The Census did *not* classify persons who did subsistence activity only during the reference week as "employed," unless they were "with a job but not at work" (see definition of "employed").

Worker – This term appears in connection with several subjects, for example, commuting items, class of worker, weeks worked in 1994, and workers in family in 1994. Its meaning varies and, therefore, should be determined in each case by referring to the definition of the subject in which it appears.

Actual Hours Worked Last Week – All persons who reported working at a job or business or farm during the reference

week were asked to report in questionnaire item 21b the number of hours that they worked, excluding any time at subsistence activity. The statistics on hours worked for "employed, at work" persons pertained to the number hours actually worked at all jobs, and did not necessarily reflect the number of hours typically or usually worked or the scheduled number of hours. The concept of "actual hours" differed from that of "usual hours worked" described below. The number of persons who worked only a small number of hours was probably understated since such persons sometimes considered themselves as not working. Respondents were asked to include overtime or extra hours worked, but to exclude lunch hours, sick leave, and vacation leave.

Limitation of the Data – The census may have understated the number of employed persons because persons who had irregular, casual, or unstructured jobs sometimes reported themselves as not working. The Census probably overstated the number of employed persons "at work" (and conversely, the number of employed "with a job but not at work" was understated) since some persons on vacation or sick leave erroneously report themselves as working. This problem had no effect on the total number of employed persons. The reference week for the employment data was not the same for all persons. This lack of a uniform reference week may mean that the employment data did not reflect the reality of the employment situation of any given week. (For more information, see the discussion under "Reference Week.")

Comparability – The questionnaire items and employment status concepts for the 1995 census were essentially the same as those used in the 1990 census. However, these concepts differed in many respects from those associated with earlier censuses.

Since respondents in households reported employment data in the census, they differ from statistics based on reports from individual business establishments, farm enterprises, and certain government programs. The Census counted persons employed at more than one job only once. The Census classified these persons according to the job at which they worked the greatest number of hours during the reference week. In statistics based on reports from business and farm establishments, persons who worked for more than one establishment might be counted more than once. Moreover, other series, unlike those presented here, might exclude private household workers, unpaid family workers, and self-employed persons, but might include workers less than 16 years of age.

An additional difference in the data arises because persons who had a job but were not at work were included with the employed in the statistics shown here, whereas many of these persons were likely to be excluded from employment figures based on establishment payroll reports. Furthermore, the employment status data in this report include persons on the basis of place of residence regardless of where they worked, whereas establishment data report persons at their place of work regardless of where they live. This latter consideration was particularly significant when comparing data for workers who commuted between areas. Census data on hours worked during the reference week might differ from data from other sources. The census measures hours actually worked, whereas some surveys measure

hours paid for by employers.

ETHNIC ORIGIN OR RACE

The Census derived data on ethnic origin or race from the answers to questionnaire item P4. The question was based on self-identification and was open-ended (respondents were required to provide the answer). Ethnic origin or race referred to a person's origin or descent, "roots," heritage or place where the person or the person's parents or ancestors were born. Persons reported their ethnic group regardless of the number of the number of generations removed from their place of origin. Responses to the ethnic origin question reflected the ethnic group(s) with which the person was identified and not necessarily the degree of attachment or association the persons had with the particular group(s).

Ethnic origin or race is different from other population characteristics that are sometimes regarded as indicators of ethnicity, namely country of birth and language spoken at home. A large number of persons reported their ethnic origin or race by specifying a single ethnic group, but some reported two, three, or more ethnic groups. The Census coded responses by a procedure that allowed for identification of the first two responses reported.

In published tabulations, the Census designated multiple groups in general open-ended categories such as "Chamorro and other group(s)," rather than in specific multiple ethnic groups such as "Chamorro-Carolinian". We included a person who reported "Chamorro-Carolinian" ethnicity, for example, in the "Chamorro and other group(s)" and in the category "Carolinian and other group(s)." We considered a few responses consisting of two terms (for example, French Canadian) as a single group, and coded and tabulated the entry as a single ethnicity. Also, we tabulated responses such as "Polish-American" or "Italian-American" as single entry (that is, "Polish" or "Italian"). We accepted American as a unique ethnicity if it was given alone, with an ambiguous response, or with State names. If the respondent listed any other ethnic identity such as "Chamorro - American," generally we did not code the "American" portion of the response.

Limitation of the Data – The Central Statistics Division can not collect information on religion. We did not code entries of religious groups separately, but tabulated them in the category "Ethnic group not specified."

Comparability – The 1980 census was the first to ask a question on ethnic origin or race as an open-ended item. In 1990 and 1995, although the census allowed respondents to report more than two ethnic groups, we coded only the first two ethnic groups identified. No imputation occurred for non-response to the 1980 ethnic origin question. The 1990 and 1995 censuses used information from other ethnic origin or race data to impute from other items (parental birthplace and language), other members of the housing unit, or other persons in nearby housing units.

FERTILITY

The Census derived data on fertility (also referred to as "children ever born") from answers to questionnaire item P20, which was asked of women 15 years old and over regardless of marital status. The number of children ever born excluded stillbirths, stepchildren, and adopted children. The Census instructed ever-married women to include all children born to them before and during their most recent marriage, children no longer living, and children away from home, as well as children still living in the home. Never-married women also included all children born to them.

We present data most frequently in terms of the aggregate number of children ever born to women in a specified category and in terms of the rate per 1,000 women. For purposes of calculating the aggregate, we assign the value of 15 to the open-ended response category "15 or more".

Comparability – The wording of the question on children ever born was the same in 1995 as in 1990. In 1970 however, the terminal category was "12 or more" children ever born. In virtually all of the tables in 1970 census volumes, data presented on children ever born to all women assumed that single women were childless, even though it was known that some of the women have had children. Therefore, rates and number of children ever born between 1990 and 1995 reports can be compared as well as all tables for all census years which show data for ever-married women.

GROUP QUARTERS

The Central Statistics Division classified all persons not living in households as living in group quarters. Two general categories of persons lived in group quarters: (1) institutionalized persons and (2) other persons in group quarters (also referred to as "noninstitutional group-quarters").

Institutionalized Persons – Included persons under formally authorized, supervised care or custody in institutions at the time of enumeration. The Census classified institutionalized persons as "patients or inmates" of an institution regardless of the availability of nursing or medical care, the length of stay, or the number of persons in the institutions. Generally institutionalized persons were restricted to the institutional buildings or grounds (or must have passes or escorts to leave) and thus had limited interaction under the care of trained staff who had responsibility for their safekeeping and supervision.

Type of Institutions – The enumeration activities determined the type of institution. All patients or inmates received the same classification for institutions which specialized in only one specific type of service. For institutions having multiple types of major services (usually general hospitals and Veterans' Administration hospitals), the Census classified patients according to selected types of wards. For example, in psychiatric wards of hospitals, patients were in "mental (psychiatric) hospitals"; in hospitals wards for persons with chronic diseases, patients were in "hospitals for the chronically ill." The Census classified each patient or inmate in only one type of institution. Institutions included the following types:

Correctional Institutions – Included prisons, Federal detention centers, military stockades and jails, police lockups, halfway houses, local jails, and other confinement facilities, including work farms.

Prisons – Where persons convicted of crimes serve their sentences.

Federal Detention Centers – Operated by the Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) and the Bureau of Prisons. These facilities included INS Centers, such as the INS Federal Alien Detention Facility; INS Processing Centers; and INS Contract Detention Centers used to detain aliens under exclusion or deportation proceedings, as well as those aliens who have not been placed into proceedings, such as custodial required departures; and INS Detention Centers operated within local jails, and State and Federal prisons.

Military Stockades, Jails – Operated by military police and used to hold persons awaiting trial or convicted of violating military laws.

Local Jails and other Confinement Facilities – Included facilities operated by local government that primarily hold persons beyond arraignment, usually for more than 48 hours. Also included in this category were work farms used to hold person awaiting trial or serving time on relatively short sentences and jails run by private businesses under contract or local governments (but *not* by state governments).

Police Lockups – Temporary holding facilities operated by local police that hold persons for 48 hours or less only if they have not been formally charged in court.

Halfway Houses – Operated for correctional purposes and include probation and restitution centers, pre-release centers, and community-residential centers.

Nursing Homes – Comprised a heterogeneous group of places. The

Schools, Hospitals, or Wards for the Mentally Handicapped – Included those institutions such as wards in hospitals for the mentally retarded, and intermediate care for the mentally retarded that provide supervised medical/nursing care from formally trained staff. In some census products, this category was classified by type of ownership as "Public," "Private," and "Ownership not known."

Schools, Hospitals and Wards for the Physically Handicapped – Included three types of institutions: institutions for the blind, those for the deaf, and orthopedic wards and institutions for the physically handicapped. The Census classified institutions for persons with speech problems with "institutions for the deaf." The category "orthopedic wards and institutions for the physically handicapped" included those institutions providing relatively long-term care to accident victims, and to persons with polio, cerebral palsy, and muscular dystrophy. In some census products, this category was classified by type of ownership as "Public," "Private," and "Ownership not known."

Hospitals, and Wards for Drug/Alcohol Abuse – Included hospitals, and hospital wards in psychiatric and general hospitals. These facilities were equipped medically and designed for the diagnosis and treatment of medical or psychiatric illnesses associated with alcohol or drug abuse. Patients received supervised medical care from formally-trained staff.

majority of patients were elderly, although persons who required nursing care because of chronic physical conditions might be found in these homes regardless of their age. Included in this category were skilled-nursing facilities, intermediate-care facilities, long term care rooms in wards or buildings on the grounds of hospitals, or long-term care rooms/nursing wings in congregate housing facilities. Also included were nursing, convalescent, and rest homes, such as soldiers', sailors', veterans', and fraternal or religious homes for the aged, with or without nursing care. In some census products, nursing home care classified by type of ownership as "Federal," "State," "Private not-for-profit," and "Private for profit."

Mental (Psychiatric) Hospital – Included hospitals or wards for the criminally insane not operated by a prison, and psychiatric wards of general hospitals and veterans hospitals. Patients received supervised medical/nursing care from formally trained staff. In some census products, nursing homes were classified by the type of ownership as "Federal," "State or local," "Private," and "Ownership not known."

Hospitals for Chronically Ill – Included hospitals for patients who require long-term care, including those in military hospital and wards for the chronically ill located on military bases; or other hospitals or wards for the chronically ill, which included tuberculosis hospitals or wards, wards in general and Veterans' Administration hospital for the chronically ill, neurological wards, hospices, wards for patients with Hansen's Disease (leprosy) and other incurable diseases, and other unspecified wards for the chronically ill. Patients who had no usual home elsewhere were enumerated as part of the institutional population in the wards of general and military hospitals. Most hospital patients were at the hospital temporarily and were enumerated at their usual place of residence.

Wards in General and Military Hospitals for Patients Who Had No Usual Home Elsewhere – Included maternity, neonatal, pediatric (including wards for boarder babies), military, and surgical wards of hospitals, and wards for infectious diseases.

Juvenile Institutions – Included homes, schools, and other institutions providing care for children (short- or long- term care). Juvenile institutions include the following types:

Homes for Abused, Dependent, and Neglected Children – Included orphanages and other institutions which provide long-term care (usually more than 30 days) for children. This category was classified in some census products by type of ownership as "Public" and "Private."

Detention Centers – Included institutions providing short term care (usually 30 days or less) primarily for delinquent children pending disposition of their cases by a court. This category also covered diagnostic centers. In practice, such institutions might be caring for both delinquent and neglected children pending court disposition.

Other Persons in Group Quarters (also referred to as "noninstitutional group quarters") – Included all persons who lived in group

quarters other than institutions. Persons who lived in the following living quarters were classified as "other persons in group quarters" when 10 or more unrelated persons lived in the unit; otherwise, we classified these living quarters as housing units.

Rooming Houses – Included persons residing in rooming and boarding houses and living in quarters with 10 or more unrelated persons.

Group Homes – Included "community-based homes" that provide care and supportive services. Such places include homes for the mentally ill, mentally retarded, and physically handicapped; drug/alcohol halfway houses; and communes.

Homes for the Mentally Ill – Included community based homes that provide care primarily for the mentally ill. The Census counted homes which combined treatment of the mentally handicapped with the treatment of the mentally ill as homes for the mentally ill.

Homes for the Mentally Retarded – Included community based homes that provided care primarily for the mentally retarded. The Census counted homes which combined treatment of the physically handicapped with treatment of the mentally retarded as homes for the mentally retarded.

Homes for the Physically Handicapped – Included community-based homes for the blind, for the deaf, and other community-based homes for the physically handicapped. The Census classified persons with speech problems with homes for the deaf.

Homes or Halfway Houses for Drug/Alcohol Abuse – Included persons with no usual home elsewhere in places that provided community-based care and supportive services to persons suffering from a drug/alcohol addiction and to recovering alcoholics and drug abusers. Places providing community-based care for drug and alcohol abusers included group homes, detoxification centers, quarter way houses (residential treatment facilities that work closely with accredited hospitals), halfway houses, and recovery homes for ambulatory, mentally competent recovering alcoholics and drug abusers who might be reentering the work force.

Other Group Homes – Included persons with no usual home elsewhere in communes, foster care homes, and job corps centers with 10 or more unrelated persons. These types of places provided communal living quarters, generally for persons who had formed their own community in which they had common interests and often shared or owned property jointly.

Religious Group Quarters – Included, primarily group quarters for nuns teaching in parochial schools and for priests living in rectories. It also included other convents and monasteries, except those associated with a general hospital or an institution.

Persons residing in certain other types of living arrangements were classified as living in "noninstitutional group quarters" regardless of the number of people sharing the unit. These include persons residing in the following type of group quarters:

College Dormitories – Included college students in dormitories (provided the dormitory was restricted to students who did not have their families living with them), fraternity and sorority houses, and on-campus residential quarters used exclusively for those in religious orders who were attending college. Students in privately-owned rooming and boarding houses off campus were also included, if the place was exclusively for occupancy by college-level students and if 10 or more unrelated persons lived there.

Military Quarters – Included military personnel living in barracks and dormitories on base, in transient quarters on base for temporary residents (both civilian and military), and on military ships. However, patients in military hospitals receiving treatment for chronic diseases or who had no usual home elsewhere, and persons being held in military stockades were included as part of the institutional population.

Agriculture Workers' Dormitories – Included persons in migratory farm workers' camp on farms, bunkhouses for ranch hands, and other dormitories on farms, such as those on "tree farms."

Other Workers' Dormitories – Included persons in logging camps, construction workers' camps, firehouse dormitories, job-training camps and non farm migratory workers camps.

Emergency Shelters for Homeless Persons (With Sleeping Facilities) – Enumerators were instructed not to ask if a person was "Homeless." If a person was at one of the locations below on September 9, the person was counted as described below. This category was divided into three classifications:

Emergency Shelters for Homeless Persons (With Sleeping Facilities) – Included persons staying in permanent and temporary emergency housing, missions, Salvation Army Shelters, hotels, and motels used entirely for homeless persons regardless of the nightly rate charged; rooms in hotels and motels used partially for the homeless; and similar places known to have persons who have no usual home elsewhere staying overnight. If not shown separately, the Census included shelters and group homes which provided temporary sleeping facilities for runaway, neglected, and homeless children in this category in data products.

Shelter for Runaway, Neglected, and Homeless Children – Included shelters/group homes which provide temporary sleeping facilities for juveniles.

Shelters for Abused Women (Shelters Against Domestic Violence or Family Crisis Centers) – Included community-based homes or shelters that provided domiciliary care for women who had sought shelter from family violence and who may have been physically abused. Most shelters also provided care for children of abused women. These shelters might provide social services, meals, psychiatric treatment, and counseling. In some census products, "shelters for abused women" were included in the category "other noninstitutional group quarters."

Crews of Maritime Vessels – Included officers, crew members, and passengers of maritime U.S. flag vessels. All ocean-going

ships were included.

Staff Residents of Institutions – Included staff residing in group quarters on institutional grounds who provided formally-authorized, supervised care or custody for the institutionalized population.

Other Non household living situations – Included persons enumerated with no usual home elsewhere.

Living Quarters for Victims of Natural Disaster – Included living quarters for persons temporarily displaced by natural disasters.

Limitation of the Data – Two types of errors can occur in the classification of "types of group quarters":

1. **Misclassification of group Quarters** – During the 1990 and 1995 Census Special Place operation, enumerators determined the type of group quarters associated with each special place in their assignment. Enumerators used the Alphabetical Group Quarters Code List and Index to assign a two-digit code number followed by either an "I" for institutional or an "N," for noninstitutional to each group quarters. In 1990 and 1995, unacceptable group quarter codes were edited. (For more information on editing of unacceptable data, see Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.)
2. **No Classification (Unknowns)** – Improvements were made to the 1990 Alphabetical Group Quarters Code List; that is, new lists included more group quarters categories in "Index to Alphabetical Group Quarters Code List."

Comparability – For the 1995 census the definition of the institutionalized persons was revised so that the definition of "care" only included persons under organized medical or formally-authorized, supervised care or custody. As a result of this change to the institutional definition, maternity homes were classified as noninstitutional rather than institutional group quarters as in previous censuses. The following types of other group quarters were classified as institutional rather than noninstitutional group quarters: "halfway houses (operated for correctional purposes)" and "wards in general and military, and surgical wards of hospitals, other-purpose wards of hospitals, and wards for infectious diseases."

These changes affected the comparability of data with earlier censuses because of the relatively small number of persons involved.

As in 1980 and 1990, 10 or more unrelated persons living together were classified as living in noninstitutional group quarters. In 1970, the criteria was six or more unrelated persons.

Several changes also occurred in the identification of specific types of group quarters. For the first time, the 1990 census identified separately the following types of correctional institutions: persons in halfway houses (operated for correctional purposes), military stockades and jails, and police lockups. In 1990, tuberculosis hospitals or wards were included with hospitals for the chronically ill. In 1980, they were shown separately. For 1990 and 1995, the noninstitutional group quarters category "Group Homes" was further classified as: group homes for drug/alcohol abuse; maternity homes (for unwed

mothers), group homes for the mentally ill, group homes for the mentally retarded, and group homes for the physically handicapped. Persons living in communes, foster-care homes, and job corps centers were classified with "Other group homes" only if 10 or more unrelated persons share the unit; otherwise, they were classified as housing units.

In 1990, workers' dormitories were classified as group quarters regardless of the number of persons sharing the dorm for it to be classified as a group quarters.

In 1990 and 1995 census data products, the phrase "inmates of institutions" was changed to "institutionalized persons." Also, persons living in noninstitutional group quarters were referred to as: "other persons in group quarters," and the phrase "staff residents" was used for staff living in institutions.

In 1990 and 1995, the Census had additional institutional categories and noninstitutional group quarters categories compared with the 1980 census. The institutional categories added include "hospitals and wards for drug/alcohol abuse" and "military hospitals for the chronically ill." The noninstitutional group quarters categories added include "emergency shelter for homeless persons" and "shelters for abused women."

HOUSEHOLD TYPE AND RELATIONSHIP

Household

A household included all the persons who occupied a housing unit. A housing unit was a house, an apartment, a mobile home, a group of rooms, or a single room that was occupied (or if vacant, was intended for occupancy) as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters were those in which the occupants lived and ate separately from any other persons in the building and which had direct access from the outside of the building or through a common hall. The occupants might be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other group of related or unrelated persons who shared living arrangements. The count of households or householders always equaled the count of occupied Housing units.

Persons Per Household – A measure obtained by dividing the number of persons in households by the number of households (or householders). In cases where persons in households were cross-classified by ethnic origin or race, persons in the household were classified by the ethnic origin or race of the householder rather than the ethnic origin or race of each individual.

Relationship to Householder

Householder – The Census derived data on relationship to Householder from answers to questionnaire item P3, which was asked of all persons in housing units. The Census designated one person in each household as the householder. In most cases, the householder was the person, or one of the persons, in whose name the home was owned, being bought, or rented and who was listed as person 1 on the census questionnaire. If no such person existed in the household, respondents or enumerators selected any adult household member 15 years old and over as the householder.

In 1995, we classified households by type according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. We distinguished two types of householders: a family householder and a non family householder. A family householder was a householder living with one or more persons related to him or her by birth, marriage, or adoption. The householder and all persons in the household related to him or her were family members. A nonfamily householder was a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only.

Spouse – Included a person married to and living with a householder. This category included persons in formal marriages, as well as persons in common-law marriages.

The number of spouses equaled the number of "married-couple families" or "married-couple householders." The number of spouses, however, was generally less than half of the number of "married persons with spouse present," since more than one married couple could live in a household, but only spouses of householders were specifically identified as "spouse." The number of "married persons with spouse present" included married-couple subfamilies and married-couple families.

Child – Included a son or daughter by birth, a stepchild, or adopted child of the householder, regardless of the child's age or marital status. The category excluded sons-in-law, daughters-in-law, and foster children.

Natural-Born or Adopted Son/Daughter – A son or daughter of the householder by birth, regardless of the age of the child. Also, this category included sons or daughters of the householder by legal adoption, regardless of the age of the child. If the householder legally adopted a stepson/stepdaughter, the Census still classified the child as a stepchild.

Stepson/Stepdaughter – A son or daughter of the householder through marriage but not by birth, regardless of the age of the child. If the householder legally adopted a stepson/stepdaughter, the Census still classified the child as a stepchild.

Own Child – A never-married child under 18 years who was a son or daughter by birth, a stepchild, or an adopted child of the householder. Certain tabulations showed own children further classified as living with two parents or with one parent only. Own children of the householder living with two parents were by definition found only in married-couple families.

In a subfamily, an "own child" was a never-married child under 18 years of age who was a son, daughter, stepchild, or an adopted child of a mother in a mother-child subfamily, a father in father-child subfamily, or either spouse in a married-couple subfamily.

"Related children" in a family included own children and other persons under 18 years of age in the household, regardless of the marital status, who were related to the householder, except the spouse of the householder. Related children did not include Foster children since they were not related to the householder.

Other Relatives – In tabulations, included any household member related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption, but not

included specifically in another relationship category. In certain detailed tabulations, the following categories might be shown:

Grandchild – The grandson or granddaughter of the householder.

Brother/Sister – The brother or sister of the householder, including stepbrothers, stepsisters, brothers, and sisters by adoption. Brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law were included in the "Other relative" category on the questionnaire.

Parent – The father or mother of the householder, including a stepparent or adoptive parent. Fathers-in-law and mothers-in-law were included in the "Other relative" category on the questionnaire.

Other Relatives – Anyone not listed in a reported category above who was related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption (brother-in-law, grandparent, nephew, aunt, mother-in-law, daughter-in-law, cousin, and so forth).

Nonrelatives – Included any household member, including foster children not related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. The following categories might be presented in more detailed tabulations:

Roomer, Boarder, or Foster Child – Roomer, boarder, lodger, and foster children or foster adults of the householder.

Housemate or Roommate – A person who was not related to the householder and who shared living quarters primarily in order to share expenses.

Unmarried Partner – A person who was not related to the householder, who shared living quarters, and who had a close personal relationship with the householder.

Other Nonrelative – A person who was not related by birth, marriage, or adoption to the householder and who was not described by the categories given above.

When relationship was not reported for an individual, it was imputed according to the responses for age, sex, and marital status for that person while maintaining consistency with responses for other individuals in the household. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.)

Unrelated Individual

An unrelated individual was: (1) a householder living alone or with nonrelatives only, (2) a household member who was not related to the householder, or (3) a person living in group quarters who was not an inmate of an institution.

Family Type

A family consisted of a householder and one or more other persons living in the same household who were related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. All persons in a household who were related to the householder were regarded as members of his or her family. A household could contain only one family for purpose of

census tabulation. Not all households contained families since a household might comprise a group of unrelated persons or one person living alone.

The Census classified families by type as either a “married–couple family” or “other family” according to the sex of the householder and the presence of relatives. We based the data on family type on answers to questions on sex and relationship.

Married–Couple Family – A family in which the householder and his or her spouse were enumerated as members of the same household.

Other Family:

Male Householder, No Wife Present – A family with a male householder and no spouse of householder present.

Female Householder, No Husband Present – A family with a female householder and no spouse of householder present.

Persons Per Family – A measure obtained by dividing the number of persons in families by the total number of families with families (or family householders). In cases where the measure, “persons in family” or “persons per family” was cross–tabulated by ethnic origin or race, the ethnic origin or race referred to the householder rather than the ethnic origin or race of each individual.

Subfamily

A subfamily was a married couple (husband and wife enumerated as members of the same household) with or without never–married children under 18 years old, or one parent with one or more never–married under 18 years old, living in a household and related to, but not including, either the householder or the householder’s spouse. The number of subfamilies was not included in the account of families, since subfamily members were counted as part of the householder’s family.

Subfamilies were defined during processing of the data. In selected tabulations, subfamilies were further classified by type: married–couple subfamilies, with or without own children; mother–child subfamilies; and father–child subfamilies.

Lone parents included people maintaining either one–parent families or one–parent subfamilies. Married couples included husbands and wives in both married–couple families and married–couple subfamilies.

Unmarried–Couple Household

An unmarried–couple household was composed of two unrelated adults of the opposite sex (one of whom was the householder) who shared a housing unit with or without the presence of children under 15 years old.

Foster Children

Foster Children were nonrelatives of the householder and were included in the category “Roomer, boarder, or foster child” on the

questionnaire. Foster children were identified as persons under 18 years old and living in households that had no nonrelatives 18 years old and over (who might be parents of the nonrelatives under 18 years old).

Stepfamily

A Stepfamily was a “married–couple family” with at least one stepchild of the householder present, where the householder was the husband.

Comparability – The 1995 definition of a household was the same as that used in 1990. The 1980 relationship category “Son/daughter” had been replaced by two categories, “Natural–born or adopted son/daughter” and “Stepson/stepdaughter.” “Grandchild” had been added as a separate category. The 1980 nonrelative categories: “Roomer, boarder” and “Roommate” were replaced by the categories “Roomer, boarder, or foster child,” “House mate, roommate,” and “Unmarried partner.” The 1980 nonrelative category “Paid employee” was dropped.

INCOME IN 1994

The Census derived data on income in 1994 from answers to questionnaire items P30a–P30h. Information on money income received in the calendar year 1994 was requested from persons 15 years old and over. “Total income” was the algebraic sum of the amounts reported separately for wage or salary income; net nonfarm self–employment and farm self–employment income; interest, dividend, or net rental royalty income; Social Security or railroad retirement income; public assistance or welfare income; and all other income. “Earnings” was defined as the algebraic sum of wage or salary income and net income from farm and nonfarm self–employment. “Earnings” represent the amount of income received regularly before deductions for personal income taxes, Social Security, bond purchases, union dues, medicare deductions, etc.

The Census did not include receipts from the following sources as income: money received from the sale of property (unless the recipient was engaged in the business of selling property); the value of income “in kind” from food stamps, public housing subsidies, medical care, employer contributions for persons, etc.; withdrawal of bank deposits; money borrowed; tax refunds; exchange of money between relatives living in the same household; gifts and lump–sum inheritances, insurance payment and other types of lump–sum receipts.

INCOME TYPE IN 1994

The eight types of income reported in the census were defined as follows:

1. *Wage or Salary Income* – Included total money earnings received for work performed as an employee during the calendar year 1994. It included wages, salary, Armed Forces pay, commissions, tips, piece rate payments, and cash bonuses earned before deductions were made for taxes, bonds, pensions union dues, etc.
2. *Self–Employment Income* – Nonfarm self–employment income included net money income (gross receipts minus expenses) from

one's own business, professional enterprise, or partnership. Gross receipts included the value of all goods sold and services rendered. Expenses included costs of goods purchased, rent, heat, light, power, depreciation charges, wages and salaries paid, business taxes (not personal income taxes), etc. Farm self-employment income (gross receipts minus operating expenses) from the operation of a farm by a person on his or her account, as an owner, renter, or sharecropper. Gross receipts included the value of all products sold, government farm programs, money received from the rental of farm equipment to others, and incidental receipts from the sale of wood, sand, gravel, etc. Operating expenses included cost of feed, fertilizer, seed, and other farming supplies, cash wages paid to farmhands, depreciation charges, cash rent, interest in farm mortgages, farm building repairs, farm taxes (not personal income taxes), etc. The Census did not include value of fuel, food, or other farm products used for family living as part of net income.

3. *Interest, Dividend, or Net Rental Income* – Included interest on savings or bonds, dividends from stock-holdings or membership in associations, net income rental of property to others and receipts from boarders or lodgers, net royalties, and periodic payments from an estate or trust fund.

4. *Social Security Income* – Included Social Security pensions and survivors benefits and permanent disability insurance payments made by the Social Security Administration prior to deductions for medical insurance, and railroad retirement insurance checks from the U.S. Government. Medicare reimbursements were not included.

5. *Public Assistance Income* – included: (1) supplementary security income payments made by Federal or State welfare agencies to low income persons who reported aged (65 years old or over), blind, or disabled; (2) aid to families with dependent children, and (3) general assistance. The Census excluded separate payments received for hospital or other medical care (vendor payments) from this item.

6. *Retirement or Disability Income* – Included: (1) retirement pensions and survivor benefits from a former employer, labor union, or Federal, State, county, or other governmental agency; (2) disability income from sources such as worker's compensation; companies or unions; Federal, State, or local government; and the U.S. military; (3) periodic receipts from annuities and insurance; and (4) regular income from IRA and KEOGH plans.

7. *Remittance Income* – Included money received from relatives who were (1) civilians living outside the household or (2) in the military outside the household; for example, allotments.

8. *All Other Income* – Included unemployment compensation, Veterans' Administration (VA) payments, alimony and child support, contributions received periodically from persons not living in the household, military family allotments, net gambling winnings, and other kinds of periodic income other than earnings.

Income of Households – Included the income of the householder and all other persons 15 years old and over in the household, whether related to the householder or not. Because many households consisted of only one person, average household income was usually less than average family income.

Income of Families and Persons – In compiling statistics on family income, the incomes of all members 15 years old and over in each family were summed and treated as a single amount. However, for persons 15 years old and over, the total amounts of their own incomes were used. Although the income statistics covered the calendar year 1994, the characteristics of persons and the composition of families referred to the time of enumeration (September 9 1995). Thus, the income of the family did not include amounts received by persons who were members of the family during all or part of the calendar year 1994 if these persons no longer resided with the family at the time of enumeration. Yet, family income amounts reported by related persons who did not reside with the family during 1994 but who were members of the family at the time of enumeration were included. However, the composition of many families was the same during 1994 as in September 9, 1995.

Median Income – The median divides the income distribution into two equal parts, one having incomes above the median and the other having incomes below the median. For households and families, the Census based median income on the distribution of the total number of units including those with no income. We based the median for persons on persons with income. We computed the median income values for all households, families, and persons on the basis of more detailed income intervals than shown in most tabulations. We calculated median income figures using linear interpolation.

Mean Income – Mean income is the amount obtained by dividing the total income of a particular statistical universe by the number of units in that universe. Thus, the Census obtained mean household income by dividing total household income by the total number of households. For the various types of income we based the means on households having those types of income. We derived the "Per capita income" — the mean income computed for every man, woman, and child in a particular group — by dividing the total income of a particular group by the total population in that group.

Take care in using and interpreting mean income values for small subgroups of the population. The mean is especially susceptible to the effects of misreporting and processing errors because it is influenced strongly by extreme values in the distribution. The median, which is not affected by extreme values, is a better measure than the mean when the population base is small. The mean, nevertheless, was shown in some data products for most small subgroups because, when weighted according to the number of cases, we can add the means to obtain summary measures for areas and groups other than those shown in census tabulations.

Limitation of the Data – Since questionnaire entries for income frequently were based on memory and not on records, many persons tended to forget minor or irregular sources of income and, therefore, underreport their income. Underreporting tends to be more pronounced for income sources not derived from earnings, such as Social Security, public assistance, or from interest, dividend, and net rental income.

Errors of reporting occurred due to the misunderstanding of the income questions such as reporting gross rather than net dollar amounts for the two questions on net self-employment income, which resulted in an overstatement of these items. Another common

error was the reporting of identical dollar amounts in two of the eight types of income items where a respondent with only one source of income assumed that the second amount should be entered to represent total income. Such instances of overreporting had an impact on the level of mean self-employment income and mean total income published for the various geographical subdivisions of the CNMI.

Extensive computer editing procedures reduced some of these reporting errors and improved the accuracy of the income data. These procedures corrected various reporting deficiencies and improved the consistency of reported income items associated with work experience and information on occupation and class of worker. For example, if persons reported they were self-employed on their own farm, not incorporated, but had reported wage and salary earnings only, the latter amount was shifted to net self-employment income. Also, if a respondent reported total income only, the amount was generally assigned to one of the type of income items according to responses to the work experience and class of worker questions. Another type of problem involved nonreporting of income data. When the respondent did not report income, we devised procedures to impute appropriate values with either no income or positive or negative income dollar amounts for the entries.

In income tabulations for households and families, the lowest income group (for example, less than \$2,500) included units that were classified as having no 1994 income. Many of these were living on income "in kind," savings, or gifts, were newly created families, or families in which the sole breadwinner had recently died or left the household. However, many of the households and families who reported no income probably had some money income which was not recorded in the census. Some may have been living from subsistence activity only.

The income data presented in the tabulations covered money income only. The fact that many farm families received an important part of their income in the form of "free" housing and goods produced and consumed on the farm rather than in money should be taken into consideration in comparing the income of farm and nonfarm residents. Some nonfarm residents also received nonmoney income such as business expense accounts, use of business transportation and facilities, or partial compensation by business for medical and educational expenses. Many low income families also received income "in kind" from public welfare programs. In comparing income data for 1994 with earlier years, note that an increase or decrease in money income did not necessarily represent a comparable change in real income, unless adjustments for changes in prices were made.

Comparability – The income data collected in the 1970, 1980 and 1990 censuses were similar to the 1995 census data, but with variations in the detail of the question. In 1980, each person was required to report:

- ! Wage or Salary income
- ! Net nonfarm self-employment income
- ! Net farm self-employment income
- ! Interest, dividend, or net rental or royalty income
- ! Social Security income

- ! Public Assistance income
- ! Income from all other sources

Between the 1980 and 1990 censuses, minor differences occurred in the processing of the data. The 1995 income edits were similar to those in 1990. In all three censuses, all persons with missing values in one or more of the detailed types of income items *and* total income were designated as allocated. Each missing entry was imputed either as a "no" or as a dollar amount. If total income was reported *and* one or more type of income fields was not answered, then the entry in total income generally was assigned to one of the income types according the socioeconomic characteristics of the income recipient. This person was designated as unallocated.

In 1980, 1990 and 1995, the Census assigned all nonrespondents with income not reported (whether heads of households or other persons) the reported income of persons with similar characteristics. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix C, "Accuracy of the Data.")

A difference existed in the method of computer derivation of aggregate income from individual amounts between the 1980 and the 1990-1995 census processing operations. In the 1980 census, the census clerks coded income amounts less than \$100,000 were coded in tens of dollars, and amounts of \$100,000 or more in thousands of dollars; the clerks added \$5 to each amount code in tens of dollars and \$500 to each amount coded in thousands of dollars. The 1980 Census treated entries of \$999,000 or more were treated as \$999,500 and losses of \$9,999 or more as minus \$9,999. In the 1990 and 1995 censuses, the Census keyed income amounts less than \$999,999 in dollars. We keyed amounts of \$999,999 or more were as \$999,999 and we treated losses of \$9,999 or more as minus \$9,999 in all of the computer derivations of aggregate income.

If a person reported a dollar amount in wage or salary, net nonfarm self-employment income, or net farm self-employment income, the Census considered that person as unallocated only if the computer did not impute further dollar amounts for any additional missing entries.

INDUSTRY, OCCUPATION, AND CLASS OF WORKER

The Census derived data on industry, occupation, and class of worker from answers to questionnaire items P28 to P30. Information on industry related to the kind of business conducted by a person's employing organization; occupation described the kind of work the person did on the job.

For employed persons, the data referred to the person's job during the reference week. For those who worked at two or more jobs, the data referred to the job at which the person worked the greatest number of hours. For unemployed persons, the data referred to their last job. The Census derived industry and occupation statistics from the detailed classification systems developed for the 1995 census as described below. The *Classified Index of Industries and Occupations* provided additional information on the industry and

occupation classification systems.

Respondents provided the data for the tabulations by reporting descriptions of their industry and occupation. Clerks in the Central Statistics Division's processing office used these descriptions for coding. The clerical staff converted the written questionnaire descriptions to codes by comparing these descriptions to entries in the *Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations*.

Industry

The industry classification system developed for the 1995 census consisted of 235 categories for employed persons, classified into 13 major industry groups. Since 1940, the industrial classification was based on the Standard Industrial Classification Manual (SIC). The 1995 census classification was developed from the 1987 SIC published by the Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President.

The SIC was designed primarily to classify establishments by the type of industrial activity in which they were engaged. However, census data collected from households differed in detail and nature from those obtained from establishments surveys. Therefore, the census classification systems, while defined in SIC terms, could not reflect the full detail in all categories. Several levels of industrial classification occurred in census products.

Occupation

The occupational classification system developed for the 1995 census consisted of 500 specific occupational categories for employed persons arranged into 6 summary and 13 major occupational groups. This classification was developed to be consistent with the *Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) Manual: 1980*, published by the Office of Federal Statistical Policy and Standards, U.S. Department of Commerce. Tabulations with occupation as the primary characteristic present several levels of occupational detail.

Some occupation groups were related closely to certain industries. Operators of transportation equipment, farm operators and workers, and private household workers accounted for major portions of their respective industries of transportation, agriculture, and private households. However, the industry categories included persons in other occupations. For example, persons employed in the transportation industry included mechanics, freight handlers, and payroll clerks; and persons employed in the private household industry included occupations such as chauffeur, gardener, and secretary.

Class of Worker

The data on class of worker were derived from answers to questionnaire item P30. The information on class of worker referred to the same job as a respondent's industry and occupation and categorized persons according to the type of ownership of the employing organization. The class of worker categories were defined as follows:

Private Wage and Salary Workers – Included persons who worked for wages, salary, commission, tips pay-in-kind, or piece

rates for a private for profit employer or a private not-for-profit, tax exempt or charitable organization. Self-employed persons whose business was incorporated were included with private wage and salary workers because they were paid employees of their own companies.

Governments Workers – Included persons who were employees of any local, territorial, or Federal government unit, regardless of the activity of the particular agency.

Self –Employed Workers – Included persons who worked for profit or fees in their own unincorporated business, profession, or trade, who operated a farm.

Unpaid Family Workers – Included persons who worked 15 hours or more without pay in a business or on a farm operated by a relative.

The Census limited the industry category "Public administration" to regular government function such as legislative, judicial, administrative, and regulatory activities of the governments. We classified other government organizations such as schools, hospitals, liquor stores, and business by industry according to the activity in which they were engaged. On the other hand, the class of worker government categories included all government workers.

Occasionally respondents supplied industry, occupation, or class of worker descriptions which were not sufficiently specific for precise classification or did not report on these items at all. Some of these cases were corrected through the field editing process and during the coding and tabulation operations. Clerks corrected certain types of incomplete entries in the coding operation using the *Alphabetical Index of Industries and Occupations*. For example, in certain situations clerks assigned an industry code based on the occupation reported.

Following the coding operations, a computer edited the data, using an allocation process. The edit first determined whether a respondent was in the universe which required an industry and occupation code. The computer checked the codes for the three items (industry, occupation, and class of worker) to ensure they were valid and were edited for their relation to each other. Invalid and inconsistent code were either blanked or changed to a consistent code.

If one or more of the three codes were blank after the edit, a code was assigned from a "similar" person based on other items such as age, sex, education, farm or nonfarm residence, and weeks worked. If all the labor force and income data also were blank, all these economic items were assigned from another person who provided all the necessary data.

Comparability – Comparability of the industry and occupation data was affected by a number of factors, primarily the systems used to classify the questionnaire responses. For both the industry and occupation classification systems, the basic structures were generally the same from 1940 to 1970, but changes in the individual categories limited comparability of the data from one census to another. The Census needed these changes to recognize the *birth*

of new industries and occupations, the *death* of others, and the growth and decline in existing industries and occupations, as well as desire of analysts and other users for more detail in the presentation of the data. Probably the greatest cause of incomparability was the movement of a segment of a category to a different category in the next census. Changes in the nature of jobs and respondent terminology, and refinement of category composition made these movements necessary.

In the 1995 Census, the industry classification had minor revisions to reflect recent changes to the SIC. The 1995 occupational classification system was essentially the same as that for the 1990 census. However, the conversion of the census classification to the SOC in 1980 meant that the 1995 classification system was less comparable to the classifications used prior to the 1980 census.

Other factors affecting data comparability included the universe to which the data referred — in 1970, the age cutoff for labor force was changed from 14 years to 16 years; how the industry and occupation question were worded on the questionnaire (for example, important changes were made in 1970); improvements in the coding procedures; and, how the "not reported" cases were handled. Prior to 1970, "not reported" persons were placed in the residual categories, "Industry not reported" and "Occupation not reported." In 1970, an allocation process was introduced to assign these cases to major groups. In 1995, as in 1990, the "Not reported" cases were assigned to individual categories. Therefore, the 1990 and 1995 data for individual categories included some numbers of persons who were tabulated in a "Not reported" category in previous censuses.

The following publications contain information on the various factors affecting comparability and are particularly useful in understanding in the occupation and industry information from earlier censuses: U.S. Bureau of the Census, *Changes Between the 1950 and 1960 Occupation and Industry Classification With Detailed Adjustments of 1950 Data to the 1960 Classifications*, Technical paper No. 18, 1968; U.S. Bureau of the Census, *The Relationship Between the 1970 and 1980 Industry and Occupation Classification Systems*, Technical Paper No. 59, 1988. For citations for earlier census years, see the 1980 Census of Population report, PC80-1-D, *Detailed Population Characteristics*.

Comparability between the statistics on industry and occupation from the 1995 census and statistics from other sources is affected by many of the factors described in the section on "Employment Status." These factors were primarily geographic differences between residence and place of work, different dates of reference, and differences in counts because of dual job holding. Industry data from population censuses cover all industries and all kinds of workers, whereas, data from establishment surveys often excluded private household workers government workers, and the self-employed. Also, the replies from household respondents may have differed in detail and nature from those obtained from establishments.

Occupation data from the census and data from government licensing agencies, professional associations, trade unions, etc., may not be as comparable as expected. Organizational listings

often include persons not in the labor force or persons devoting all or most of their time to another occupation; or the same persons may be included in two or more different listings. In addition relatively few organizations, except for those requiring licensing, attained complete coverage of membership in a particular occupational field.

LANGUAGE SPOKEN AT HOME AND FREQUENCY OF ENGLISH USAGE

The data on language spoken at home were derived from answers to questionnaire items P18a, P18b, and P18c. They were intended to measure the extent to which languages other than English were spoken and how frequently they were spoken relative to English. The questions were asked only of persons 5 years old and over.

Language Spoken at Home—Persons were asked in questionnaire item P18a whether they currently spoke a language other than English at home. They were not to include languages spoken only at school or languages for which the ability was limited to a few words or slang. Persons who spoke only English at home were instructed to answer "No" and to skip the remainder of the language questions.

The Census asked those persons who reported speaking a language other than English in question P18b to report the non-English language spoken at home. If more than one non-English language was spoken, the person reported the language spoken most often. If the respondent reported more than one other language, the enumerator recorded the first language the person learned to speak. The enumerator wrote the response on the form and clerks later determined a three-digit code in a separate operation. Coding clerks used a detailed list of languages which distinguished more than 380 languages or language groups. If enumerators wrote more than one language on the form the clerks coded only the first non-English language.

Frequency of Language Usage—Persons who reported in P18b that they spoke a language other than English at home reported in item P18c the frequency with which they spoke the other language relative to English in one of the following categories: "more frequently than English," "both equally often," "less frequently than English," or "does not speak English."

If a person did not have an entry for language, a computer "imputation" procedure looked at other household members for a language entry. If no one else in the household had a language entry, the language of a person of like ethnic origin and other demographic characteristics was imputed. Unreported frequency of use was allocated in a similar manner.

Comparability—These questions were asked for the first time in the 1980 census. The language categories shown in the report were slightly different from 1980 and 1990.

MARITAL STATUS

The Census derived data on marital status from answers to questionnaire item 6, which was asked of all persons. The marital

status classification referred to marital status at the time of enumeration. Data on marital status were tabulated only for persons 15 years old and over.

All persons were asked whether they were "now married," "widowed," "divorced," "separated," or "never married." Couples who lived together (unmarried persons, persons in common-law marriages) were allowed to report the marital status they considered the most appropriate.

Never Married – Included all persons who had never been married, including persons whose only marriage(s) was annulled.

Ever Married – Included persons married at the time of enumeration (including those separated), widowed, or divorced.

Now Married, Except Separated – Included persons whose current marriage had not ended through widowhood, divorce, or separation (regardless of previous marital history). The category might also include couples who lived together or persons in common-law marriages, if they considered this category the most appropriate. In certain tabulations, currently married persons were further classified as "spouse present" or "spouse absent."

Separated – Included persons legally separated or otherwise absent from their spouse because of marital discord. Separated persons included persons who had been deserted or who had parted because they no longer wanted to live together but who had not obtained a divorce.

Widowed – Included widows and widowers who had not remarried.

Divorced – Included persons who were legally divorced and who had not remarried.

In selected tabulations, data for married and separated persons were reorganized and combined with information on the presence of the spouse in the same household.

Now Married – All persons whose current marriage had not ended by widowhood or divorce. This category included persons defined above as "separated."

Spouse Present – Married persons whose wife or husband was enumerated as a member of the same household, including those whose spouse might have been temporarily absent for such reasons as travel or hospitalization.

Spouse Absent – Married persons whose wife or husband was not enumerated as a member of the same household. This category also included all married persons living in group quarters.

Separated – Defined above.

Spouse Absent, Other – Married persons whose wife or husband was not enumerated as a member of the same household, excluding separated. Included was any person whose spouse was employed and living away from home or in an institution or absent in the Armed Forces.

Differences between the number of currently married males and the number of currently married females occurred because of reporting differences and because some husbands and wives had their usual residence in different areas.

When marital status was not reported, a computer imputed marital status according to the relationship to the householder and sex and age of the person. (For more information on imputation, see Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.)

Comparability – The 1995 marital status definitions were the same as those used in 1990.

MOBILITY LIMITATION STATUS

The Census derived data on mobility limitation status from answers to questionnaire item P15, which was asked of persons 15 years old and over. Persons were identified as having a mobility limitation if they had a health condition that had lasted 6 or more months and which made it difficult to go outside the home alone. Examples of outside activities on the questionnaire included shopping and visiting a doctor's office.

The term *health condition* referred to both physical and mental conditions. The Census did not consider a temporary health problem, such as a broken bone that was expected to heal normally, as a health condition.

Comparability – This mobility limitation question was asked in 1990 for the first time.

PLACE OF BIRTH AND PARENT'S PLACE OF BIRTH

The Census derived data on place of birth from answers to question P7 and data on father's place of birth and mother's place of birth from answers to questions P11a and P11b. Each place of birth question asked for the name of the island, the U.S. State, or the foreign country where the person or the person's parents were born according to current international boundaries. Since numerous changes in boundaries of foreign countries occurred in the last century, some persons may have reported their place of birth or their parents' place of birth in terms of boundaries that existed at the time of the birth or emigration, or in accordance with their own national preference.

Persons not reporting place of birth were assigned the birthplace of another family member or were allocated the response of another person or parent with similar characteristics. The places of birth shown in the report were selected based on the number of respondents who chose to report that area or country of birth.

Comparability – Similar data were shown in tabulations for the 1990 census. The 1980 Census did not allocate nonresponse. Instead, such persons were shown separately in the tables under "Place of birth not reported."

POVERTY STATUS IN 1994

The Census derived data on poverty status from answers to the

same questions as the income data, questionnaires item P30 and P31. (For more information, see the discussion under "Income in 1994.") The Central Statistics Division based poverty statistics presented in census publications on a definition originated by the Social Security Administration in 1964 and subsequently modified by Federal interagency committees in 1969 and 1980 and prescribed by the Office of Management and Budget in Directive 14 as the standard to be used for statistical purposes.

At the core of this definition was the 1961 economy food plan,

the least costly of four nutritionally adequate food plans designed by the Department of Agriculture. The Agriculture Department's 1955 survey of food consumption determined that families of three or more persons spent approximately one-third of their income on food; hence, the poverty level for these families was set at three times the cost of the economy food plan. For smaller families and persons living alone, the cost of the economy food plan was multiplied by factors that were slightly higher to compensate for the relatively larger fixed expenses for these smaller households.

Table A. Poverty Threshold in 1994 by Size of Family and Number of Related Children Under 18 Years

Size of Family Unit	Related children under 18 years								
	None	One	Two	Three	Four	Five	Six	Seven	Eight or More
One person (unrelated individual)..									
Under 65 years.....	\$7,710								
65 years and over.....	7,108								
Two persons, householder;									
Under 65 years.....	9,924	\$10,215							
65 years and over.....	8,958	10,176							
Three persons.....	11,592	11,929	\$11,940						
Four persons	15,286	15,536	15,029	\$15,081					
Five persons	18,434	18,702	18,129	17,686	\$17,416				
Six persons	21,203	21,287	20,848	20,427	19,802	\$ 19,432			
Seven persons	24,396	24,548	24,023	23,657	22,975	22,180	\$21,307		
Eight persons	27,285	27,526	27,031	26,596	25,980	25,198	24,385	\$24,178	
Nine or more persons	32,822	32,981	32,543	32,174	31,570	30,738	29,985	29,799	\$28,651

The income cutoffs used by the Central Statistics Division to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals included a set of 48 threshold arranged in a two-dimensional matrix consisting of family size (from 1 person to 9 or more persons) cross-classified by presence and number of family members under 18 years old (from no children present to 8 or more children present). Unrelated individuals and two-person families were further differentiated by age of the householder (under 65 years old and 65 years old and over).

A computer program tested the total income of each family or unrelated individual in the sample against the appropriate poverty threshold to determine the poverty status of that family or unrelated individual. The family or unrelated individual was classified as *below the poverty level* if the total income was less than the corresponding cutoff. The number of persons below the poverty level was the sum of the number of persons in families with incomes below the poverty level and the number of unrelated individuals with incomes below the poverty level.

United States poverty thresholds are revised annually to allow for changes in the cost of living as reflected in the Consumer Price Index. The average U.S. poverty threshold for a family of four persons was \$15,286 in 1994. (For more information,

see table A.) Since poverty thresholds were not adjusted for regional, State or local variations in the cost of living, the Central Statistics Division must use the U.S. level to maintain comparability. For a detailed discussion of the poverty definition, see U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, Series P -60, No. 171, *Poverty in the United States: 1988 and 1989*.

Persons for Whom Poverty Status was Determined

The Census determined poverty status for all persons except institutionalized persons, persons in military group quarters and in college dormitories, and unrelated individuals under 15 years old. The calculations also excluded these groups from the denominator in poverty rates.

Specified Poverty Levels – Since the poverty levels currently in use by the Federal Government did not meet all the needs of data users, the Central Statistics Division also presented some of the data for alternative levels. The Census obtained these specified poverty levels by multiplying the income cutoffs at the poverty level by the appropriate factor. For example, the average income cutoff at 125 percent of poverty level was \$19,017 (\$15,286 x 1.25) in 1994 for a family of 4 persons.

Weighted Average Thresholds at the Poverty Level – The average thresholds shown in the first column of table A were weighted by the presence and number of children. For example, we obtain the weighted average threshold for a given family size by multiplying the threshold for each presence and number of children category within the given family size by the number of families in that category. We then aggregated these products across the entire range of presence and number of children categories. We then divided the aggregate by the total number of families in the group to yield the weighted average threshold at the poverty level for that family size.

Since we applied the basic thresholds used to determine the poverty status of families and unrelated individuals to all families and unrelated individuals, we derived the weighted average poverty thresholds using all families as being below the poverty level. The weighted thresholds shown in table A may be multiplied directly by the appropriate factor to obtain the weighted poverty thresholds for families and unrelated individuals below alternate poverty levels. The Census based the weighted average thresholds presented in the table on the March 1994 U.S. Current Population Survey. However, these thresholds would not differ significantly from those based on the 1995 census.

Income Deficit – Represents the difference between the total income of families and unrelated individuals below the poverty level and their respective poverty thresholds.

This measure provides an estimate of the amount which would be required to raise the incomes of all poor families and unrelated individuals to their respective poverty thresholds. The income deficit is thus a measure of the degree of impoverishment of a family or unrelated individual. However, caution must be used in comparing the average deficits of families with different characteristics. Apparent differences in average income deficits may, to some extent, be a function of differences in family size.

Mean Income deficit – Represents the amount obtained by dividing the total income deficit of a group below the poverty level by the number of families (or unrelated individuals) in that group.

Comparability – The poverty definition used in the 1980, 1990 and 1995 censuses differed slightly from the one used in the 1970 census. Three technical modifications were made to the definition used in the 1970 census as described below.

- 1 The definition eliminated the separate thresholds for families with female householder with no husband present and all other families. Later censuses applied the weighted average of the poverty thresholds for these two types of families to all types of families, regardless of the sex of the householder.
- 2 Farm families and farm unrelated individuals no longer had a set of poverty thresholds that were lower than the thresholds applied to non farm families and unrelated individuals. The farm thresholds were applied to all families and unrelated individuals regardless of residence in later censuses.

3 Thresholds by size of family were extended from seven or more persons in 1970 to nine or more persons in 1980, 1990 and 1995.

These changes resulted in a minimal increase in the number of poor at the national level, and also for the Northern Marianas. For a complete discussion of these modifications and their impact, see the Current Population Reports, Series P –60, No. 133.

The population covered in poverty statistics derived from the 1980, 1990 and 1995 censuses was essentially the same as in the 1970 census. The only difference was that in 1980, 1990 and 1995, unrelated individuals under 15 years old were excluded from the poverty universe, while in 1970, only those under 14 years old were excluded.

REFERENCE WEEK

The Census related data on current labor force status to the reference week; that is, the calendar week preceding the date on which the respondents were interviewed by enumerators. This week was not the same for all respondent since the enumeration was not completed in one week. The occurrence of holidays during the enumeration period could affect the data on actual hours worked during the reference week, but probably had no effect on overall measurement of employment status (see the discussion below on “Comparability”).

RESIDENCE IN 1990

The Census derived data on residence in 1990 from answers to question P16b, which asked for the island, or village of residence on September 9, 1990, for those persons reporting in question P16a that they lived in a different house than their current residence on that date. Persons living in the same area in which they were enumerated were also asked to report the name of the village in which they lived 5 years earlier.

When no information on residence in 1990 was reported for a person, the Census used information for other family members, if available, to assign a location of residence in 1990. The computer allocated all cases of non-response, or incomplete response not assigned a based on information from other family members based on the previous residence of other persons with similar characteristics who provided complete information.

The tabulation category “Same house” in the CNMI included all persons 5 years old and over who did not move during the 5 years as well as those who had moved but by 1995 had returned to their 1990 residence. The category “Different house” in the CNMI included persons who lived in the same area in 1990 but in a different house or apartment from the one they occupied on September 9, 1995. These movers were then further subdivided according to whether or not they previously lived in the same municipality, county, or district, as their current residence. Selected countries were shown in the tables for persons who lived outside the CNMI in which they were enumerated in 1990; persons living in countries not shown separately were included in the “Elsewhere” category.

The number of persons who were living in a different house in 1990 was somewhat less than the total number of moves during the 5-year period. Some persons in the same house at the two dates had moved during the 5-year period; but by the time of the census, they had returned to their 1990 residence. Other persons who were living in a different house had made one or more intermediate moves. For similar reasons, the number of persons living in a different municipality, county, or district may be understated.

Comparability – Similar questions were asked in 1990 as 1995. In 1980, previous residence was not allocated for non-response; these persons were shown in the category “Residence in 1975 not reported.” In the 1970 census, the migration questions did not ask for residence in a specific village or island within the CNMI.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND LABOR FORCE STATUS

Tabulation of data on enrollment, educational attainment, and labor force status for the population 16 to 19 years old allows for calculation of the proportion of the age group who were not enrolled in school and not high school graduates or “dropouts” population. This appendix presented definitions of the three topics and descriptions of the census items in “Educational Attainment,” “Employment Status,” and “School Enrollment and Type of School.” The published tabulations included both the civilian and Armed Forces populations, but labor force status was provided for the civilian population only. Therefore, the component labor force statuses might not add to the total lines *high school graduate and not high school graduate*. The difference was Armed Forces.

Comparability – The tabulation of school enrollment by labor force status was similar to that published in 1990 census reports. The 1980 census tabulation included a single data line for Armed Forces; however, tabulations showed enrollment, attainment, and labor force status data for the civilian population only. In 1970, a tabulation was included for 16 to 21 year old males not attending school.

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT AND TYPE OF SCHOOL

The Census derived data on school enrollment from answers to questionnaire P12. Persons were classified as enrolled in school if they reported attending a *regular* public or private school or college at any time between February 1, 1995, and the time of enumeration. The question included instructions to “include only pre-kindergarten, kindergarten, elementary school, and schooling which would lead to a high school diploma or a college degree” as regular school. The Census only included enrollment in a trade or business school, company training, or tutoring if the course would be accepted for credit at a regular elementary school, high school, or college. When persons did not answer the enrollment question, the computer assigned the enrollment status and type of school of a person with the same age, ethnic origin or race, and at older ages, sex, whose residence was in the same or a nearby area.

Public and Private School – Included persons who attended

school in the reference period and indicated they were enrolled by marking one of the questionnaire categories for either “public school, public college” or “private school, private college.” The enumerator instructions defined a “public” school as “any school or college controlled and supported and controlled by a local or federal Government.” Schools supported and controlled primarily by religious organizations or other private groups: were defined as “private.”

Level of School in Which Enrolled – The Census classified persons who were enrolled in school as enrolled in “pre-primary school,” “elementary school,” or “college” according to their response to question P13 (years of school completed or highest degree received). We classified persons who were enrolled and reported completing pre-kindergarten school or less as enrolled in “pre-primary school,” which included kindergarten. Similarly, we classified enrolled persons who had completed at least kindergarten, but not 8th grade, as enrolled in elementary or high school. We classified persons who completed at least the 8th grade, but who were not high school graduates as enrolled in high school. We classified enrolled persons who reported completing high school or some college or having received a post-secondary degree as enrolled in “college.” Finally, we classified enrolled persons who reported completing the twelfth grade but receiving “NO DIPLOMA” as enrolled in high school. (For more information on level of school, see the discussion under “Educational Attainment.”)

Comparability – Questions on school enrollment were first asked in 1970. The age range for enrollment data has not changed between 1970 and 1995. The range of ages for publication was 3 to 34 in 1970, but 3 years and over in 1980 through 1995. This growth in the age group whose enrollment as reported reflects increased interest in the number of children in pre-primary schools and in the number of older persons attending colleges and universities. In the 1980 and subsequent censuses, college students were enumerated where they lived while attending college, whereas in earlier censuses, they generally were enumerated at their parental homes.

Since the 1970 census, the type of school was incorporated into the terms were changed to “public,” “parochial,” and “other private.” In the 1980 census, “private, church related” replaced “parochial” and “other private.”

Grade of enrollment was first available in the 1970 census, where it was obtained from responses to the question on highest grade of school completed. Enumerators were instructed that “for a person still in school, the last grade completed will be the grade preceding the one in which he or she was now enrolled.” In 1970 and 1980, grade of enrollment was obtained from the highest grade attended in the two-part question used to measure educational attainment. (For more information, see the discussion under “Educational Attainment”). After 1980, censuses used a single question.

Other government agencies also collect and publish data on school enrollment. Administrative records of school systems and institutions of higher learning are only roughly comparable with

data from population censuses and household surveys because of differences in definitions and concepts, subject matter covered, time references, and enumeration methods. At the local level, the difference between the location of the institution and the residence of the student may affect the comparability of census and administrative data. Differences between the boundaries of school districts and census geographic units also may affect these comparisons.

SEX

The Census derived data on sex from answers to questionnaire item P2, which was asked of all persons. For most cases in which sex was not reported, the Census used the appropriate entry from the person's given name and household relationship. Otherwise, we imputed sex according to the relationship to the householder and the age and marital status of the person. For more information on imputation, see Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data.

Sex Ratio – A measure obtained by dividing the total number of males by the total number of females and multiplying by 100.

Comparability – A question on the sex of individuals has been asked of the total population in every census.

WORK STATUS IN 1994

The Census derived data on work status in 1994 from answers to questionnaire item P29.

Work Status in 1994 – Persons 16 years old and over who worked 1 or more weeks according to the criteria described below were classified as “Worked in 1994”; all other persons 16 years old and over were classified as “Did not work in 1994.” Some tabulations showing work status in 1994 include 15 year olds; these persons were classified as “Did not work in 1994” by definition.

Weeks Worked in 1994 – The Census derived data on weeks worked in 1994 from answers to questionnaire item P29b. Question P29b (Weeks worked in 1994) was asked of persons who indicated in Question P29a that they worked in 1994.

The data pertain to the number of weeks during 1994 in which a person did any work for pay or profit (including paid vacation and paid sick leave, but excluding subsistence activity) or worked without pay on a family farm or in a family business. Weeks of active service in the Armed Forces also were included.

Usual Hours Worked per Week Worked in – The Census derived data on usual hours worked per week worked in 1994 from responses to questionnaire item P29c. This question was asked of persons 16 years and over who indicated that they worked in 1994.

The data pertain to the number of hours a person usually worked during the weeks worked in 1994. The respondent was to report the number of hours worked per week in the majority of the weeks he or she worked in 1994. If the hours worked per week varied considerably during 1994, the respondent was to report an

approximate average of the hours worked per week. The statistics on usual hours worked per week worked were not necessarily related to the data on actual hours worked during the census reference week (question P21b).

Persons 16 years old and over who reported that they usually worked 35 or more hours each week during the weeks they worked were classified as “Usually worked full time”; persons who reported that they usually worked 1 to 34 hours were classified as “Usually worked part time.”

Year–Round Full–Time Workers – All persons 16 years old and over who usually worked 35 hours or more per week for 50 to 52 weeks in 1994 .

Number of Workers in Family in 1994 – The Census defined the term “Worker” according to criteria described in the section on “Work Status in 1994 .”

Limitation of the Data – The number of persons who worked in 1994 and the number of weeks worked were probably understated since respondents had a tendency to forget intermittent or short periods of employment or to exclude weeks worked without pay. Some persons may not include weeks of paid vacation among their weeks worked; one result may be that the census figures may understate the number of persons who worked “50–52 weeks.”

Comparability – The data on weeks worked collected in the 1995 census were comparable with data from the 1990, 1980, and the 1970 censuses. In 1970, persons responded to the question on weeks worked by selecting 1 of 6 weeks–worked intervals. In 1990 and 1995, persons were asked to provide the specific number of weeks they worked.

YEAR OF ENTRY

The Census derived data on year of entry from answers to questionnaire item P9, which was asked of all persons. The question, “When did this person come to this area to stay?” was asked of persons who indicated in the citizenship question that they were not born in the CNMI. (For more information, see the discussion under “Citizenship.”)

The 1995 census questions, tabulations, and census data products about citizenship and year of entry included no reference to immigration. All persons who were born and resided outside the CNMI before becoming residents had a date of entry. Some of these persons were U.S. citizens by birth (born in the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, or Guam, or born abroad of American parents). To avoid any possible confusion concerning the date of entry of persons who were U.S. citizens by birth, the term, “year of entry” was used in this report instead of the term “year of immigration.”

Limitation of the Data – The census questions on citizenship and year of entry did not measure the degree of permanence of residence in the CNMI. The phrase *to stay* was used to obtain the year in which the person became a resident of the CNMI. Although the respondent was directed to indicate the year he or

she entered the CNMI *to stay*, it was difficult to ensure that respondents interpreted the phrase correctly.

Comparability – Persons reported their actual date of entry in the 1990 and 1995 Censuses.

HOUSING CHARACTERISTICS

LIVING QUARTERS

The Census classified living quarters as either housing units or group quarters. (For more information, see discussion of “Group Quarters” under Population Characteristics.) Usually, living quarters were in structures intended for residential use (for example, a one-family home, apartment house, hotel or motel, boarding house, or mobile home). Living quarters also could be in structures intended for nonresidential use (for example, the rooms in a warehouse where a guard lived), as well as in places such as boats, tents, vans, shelters for the homeless, dormitories, and barracks.

Housing Units – A housing unit was a house, an apartment, a mobile home or trailer, a group of rooms or a single room occupied as separate living quarters or, if vacant, intended for occupancy as separate living quarters. Separate living quarters occurred when the occupants lived and ate separately from any other persons in the building and had direct access from outside the building or through a common hall.

The occupants could be a single family, one person living alone, two or more families living together, or any other arrangements. For vacant units, the criteria of separateness and direct access applied to the intended occupants. If the enumerator could not obtain that information, the criteria were applied to the previous occupants.

The Census included both occupied and vacant housing units in the housing unit inventory, except that we included recreational vehicles; boats, vans, tents, and the like only if someone occupied them as their usual place of residence. We included vacant mobile homes provided they would be occupied on the site where they stood. We excluded vacant mobile homes on dealers’ sales lots or in storage yards from the housing inventory.

We classified living quarters contained 9 or more persons unrelated to the householder or person in charge (a total of 10 unrelated persons) as group quarters. We classified living quarters containing eight or fewer persons unrelated to the householder of person in charge as a housing unit.

Occupied Housing Units – The Census classified a housing unit as occupied if it was the usual place of residence of the person or group of persons living in it at the time of enumeration, or if the occupants were only temporarily absent; that is, away on vacation or business. If all the persons staying in the unit at the

time of the census had their usual place of residence elsewhere, we classified the unit as vacant. A household included all the persons who occupied a housing unit as their usual place of residence. By definition, the count of occupied housing units was the same as the count of households or householders.

Vacant Housing Units – A housing unit was vacant if no one was living in it at the time of enumeration, unless its occupied at the time of enumeration entirely by persons whose usual residence elsewhere was also classified as vacant.

The Census classified new units not yet occupied as vacant housing units if construction had reached a point where all exterior windows and doors were installed and final usable floors were in place. We excluded vacant units if they were open to the elements; that is, the roof, walls, windows, and/or doors no longer protected the interior from the elements, or if positive evidence existed (such as a sign on the house or in the block) that the unit was condemned or was to be demolished. The Census also excluded quarters being used entirely for nonresidential purposes, such as a store or an office, or quarters used for the storage of business supplies or inventory, machinery, or agricultural products.

Hotels, Motels, Rooming Houses, Etc. – The Census classified occupied rooms or suites of rooms in hotels, motels, and similar places as housing units only when occupied by permanent residents; that is, persons who considered the hotel as their usual place of residence or have no usual place of residence elsewhere. We classified vacant rooms or suites of rooms as housing units only in those hotels, motels, and similar places where permanent residents occupied 75 percent or more of the accommodations.

If any of the occupants in a rooming or boarding house lived and ate separately from others in the building and had direct access, the Census classified their quarters as separate housing units.

Staff Living Quarters – The living quarters occupied by staff personnel within any group quarters were separate housing units if they satisfied the housing unit criteria of separateness and direct access; otherwise, we considered them group quarters.

Comparability – No change occurred in the housing unit definition between 1980, 1990, and 1995.

AIR CONDITIONING

The data on air conditioning were obtained from questionnaire item H18, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The Census defined air conditioning as the cooling of air by a refrigeration unit, and did not include evaporative coolers, fans, or blowers, which were not connected to a refrigeration unit; however, it did include heat pumps. A central system was an installation which air conditioned a number of rooms. In an apartment building, each apartment may have had its own central system, or several systems might have been in place, each providing central air conditioning for a group of apartments. A central system with individual room controls was a “central air-conditioning system.” A “room unit” was an individual air conditioner which was installed in a window or an outside wall and was generally

intended to cool one room, although it might sometimes be used to cool more than one room.

Comparability – Data on air conditioning were collected for the first time in 1980 and were shown only for year round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units.

BATHTUB OR SHOWER

The Census obtained data on bathtub or shower from questionnaire item H12, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Bathtub or shower was counted only if the equipment was permanently connected to piped running water. Portable bathtubs were not included in the bathtub or shower category.

Comparability – The data on bathtub or shower were collected for the first time in 1970 for the CNMI. In 1980, the data were shown separately as well as combined with data on water supply and flush toilet to identify the presence of complete plumbing facilities.

BATTERY OPERATED RADIO

The Census obtained data on battery operated radios from questionnaire item H16, which was asked at occupied housing units. Battery operated radios included car radios, transistors, and other battery operated sets in working order or needing only a new battery for operation.

Comparability – Data on radios were collected for the first time in 1980. However, in 1980, data on radios included all types of radio sets, either electric or battery operated. In 1990 and 1995, only battery operated radios were considered.

BEDROOMS

The Census obtained data on bedrooms from questionnaire item H9, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The number of bedrooms was the count of rooms designed to be used as bedrooms; that is, the number of rooms that would be listed as bedrooms if the house or apartment were on the market for sale or for rent. The Census included all rooms intended to be used as bedrooms even if they currently were being used for some other purpose. The Census classified a housing unit consisting of only one room, such as a one-room efficiency apartment as having no bedrooms.

Comparability – The data for bedrooms were collected for the first time in 1980 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1980 census, a room was defined as a bedroom if it was used mainly for sleeping even if also used for other purposes. Rooms that were designed to be used as bedrooms but used mainly for other purposes were not considered to be bedrooms. The 1990 and 1995 definitions counted rooms designed to be used as bedrooms. In 1970, no data were collected on bedrooms for the Northern Mariana Islands. A distribution of housing units by number of bedroom calculated from data collected in a 1986 stateside test showed virtually no differences in the data obtained from the two versions of the definition except in the bedroom category, where the previous “use” definition showed a slightly lower

proportion of units.

BOARDED –UP STATUS

The census obtained data on boarded-up status from questionnaire item C2 and was determined for all vacant units. Boarded-up units had windows and doors covered by wood, metal, or similar materials to protect the interior and to prevent entry into the building. A single-unit structure might be boarded-up in this way. For certain census data products, boarded-up units were shown only for units in the “Other vacant” category.

Comparability – Data on boarded-up status were collected for the first time in 1980 and were shown only for year-round vacant housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all vacant housing units.

BUSINESS ON PROPERTY

The Census obtained data on business on property from questionnaire item H33, which was asked at all occupied and vacant one-family houses and mobile homes. This question was used to exclude owner-occupied one-family houses with business or medical offices on the property from certain statistics on financial characteristics.

A business had to be easily recognizable from the outside. It usually had to have a separate outside entrance and have the appearance of a business, such as a grocery store, restaurant, or shop. It might be either attached to the house or mobile home or be located elsewhere on the property. Those housing units in which a room was used for business or professional purposes and had no recognizable alterations to the outside were not considered as having a business. Medical offices were considered businesses for tabulation purposes.

Comparability – The data on business on property were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands.

CONDOMINIUM FEE

The Census obtained data on condominium fee from questionnaire item H37, which was asked at owner-occupied condominiums in the Northern Mariana Islands. A monthly condominium fee was normally charged to the owners of the individual condominium units by the condominium owners association to cover operating, maintenance, administrative, and improvement costs of the common property, (grounds, halls, lobby, parking areas, laundry rooms, swimming pool, etc). The costs for utilities and/or fuels, and fire or flood insurance might also be included in the condominium fee if the units did not have separate meters.

Comparability – This item was first used in 1990 and continued in 1995.

CONDOMINIUM STATUS

The Census obtained data on condominium housing units from questionnaire item H37, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units in the Northern Mariana Islands. Condomin-

ium is a type of ownership that enables a person to own an apartment or house in a development of similarly owned units and to hold a common or joint ownership in some or all of the common areas and facilities such as land, roof, hallways, entrances, elevators, swimming pool, etc. Condominiums may be single-family houses or units in apartment buildings. A condominium unit need not be occupied by the owner to be counted as such. A unit classified as “mobile home or trailer” or “other” (see discussion on “Units in Structure”) could not be a condominium unit.

Comparability – This item was new in 1990 and was also used in 1995.

CONTRACT RENT

The Census obtained data on contract rent (also referred to as “rent asked” for vacant units) from questionnaire item H36, which was asked at all occupied housing units that were for rent at the time of enumeration.

We show housing units that were renter occupied without payment of cash rent separately as “No cash rent” in census data products. The unit might be owned by friends or relatives who lived elsewhere and who allowed occupancy without charge. Rent-free houses or apartments might be provided to compensate caretakers, members of the clergy, tenant farmers, sharecroppers, or others.

Contract rent was the monthly rent agreed to or contracted for, regardless of any furnishings, utilities, fees, meals, or services that may be included. For vacant units, it was the monthly rent asked for the rental unit at the time of enumeration.

If the contract rent included rent for a business unit or for living quarters occupied by another household, the respondent was instructed to report that part of the rent estimated to be for his or unit only. Respondents were asked to report rent only for the housing unit enumerated and to exclude any rent paid for additional units or for business premises.

If a renter paid rent to the owner of a condominium or cooperative, and the condominium fee or cooperative carrying charge was also paid by the renter to the owner, the respondent was instructed to include the fee or carrying charge.

If a renter received payments from lodgers or roomers who were listed as members of the household, the respondent reported the rent without deduction for any payments received from the lodgers or roomers. The respondent was instructed to report the rent agreed to or contracted for even if paid by someone else such as friends or relatives living elsewhere, or a church or agency.

Comparability – The data on contract rent were collected since 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. No change occurred in the contract rent definition between 1980, 1990, and 1995.

COOKING FACILITIES

The Census obtained data on cooking facilities from questionnaire items H23 and H24, which were asked at both occupied and vacant

housing units. Main cooking facilities were the ones that were used most often for preparation of meals. They could be located either inside or outside the building. Cooking facilities were classified as (1) Electric stove; (2) Kerosene stove; (3) Gas stove; (4) Microwave oven and non-portable burners; (5) Microwave oven only; or (6) Other, depending upon the type of stove used for cooking. The category “Other” included a hotplate, fireplace, or any other type of cooking facility not listed separately. “No cooking facilities” included those units with no cooking facilities available either inside or outside the building.

Comparability – The data on cooking facilities were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1980, the data for cooking facilities were shown for year-round and occupied housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units. Also, “Microwave oven and non-portable burners” and “Microwave oven only” were added to the cooking facilities categories.

DURATION OF VACANCY

The Census obtained data for duration of vacancy (also referred to as “months vacant”) from questionnaire item D, which was completed by census enumerators. Duration of vacancy referred to the length of time (in months and years) between the date the last occupants moved from the unit and the time of enumeration. The data, therefore, did not provide a direct measure of the total length of time units remain vacant.

The duration of vacancy was counted from the date construction was completed for newly constructed units which had never been occupied. The time was reported from the date conversion or merger was completed for recently converted or merged units. Units occupied by an entire household with a usual home elsewhere were assigned to the “Less than 1 month” interval.

Comparability— Data on duration of vacancy were collected for the first time in 1980 and were shown only for year-round vacant housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all vacant housing units.

ELECTRIC POWER

The Census obtained data on electric power from questionnaire item H14, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Units did not have electric power if equipped with electric power but the current was shut off because the unit was vacant or because the electric bills had not been paid.

Comparability – In 1970, a question was asked on electric lighting. In 1980, the wording was changed to electric power and also inquired about the supplier and source. Also, in 1980, data for electric power were shown only for year-round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units.

GROSS RENT

Gross rent was the contract rent plus the estimated average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, and water) and fuels (oil, coal,

kerosene, wood, etc) if these were paid for by the renter (or paid for the renter by someone else). Gross rent was intended to eliminate differentials which resulted from varying practices with respect to the inclusion of utilities and fuels as part of the rental payment. Renter units occupied without payment of cash rent were shown separately as “No cash rent” in the tabulations.

Comparability – Data on contract rent were collected for the first time in 1970 in the Northern Mariana Islands, but data on gross rent have been collected since 1980.

GROSS RENT AS A PERCENTAGE OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME IN 1994

Gross rent as percentage of household income in 1994 was a computed ratio of monthly gross rent to monthly household income (total household income in 1994 divided by 12). The ratio was computed separately for each unit. Answers were rounded to the nearest whole percentage. Units for which no cash rent was paid and units occupied by households that reported no income or a net loss in 1994 comprise the category “Not computed.”

KITCHEN FACILITIES

The Census obtained data on kitchen facilities from questionnaire items H23 which were asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. A unit had complete kitchen facilities when cooking facilities (electric, kerosene, or gas stove, microwave oven and non-portable burners, or cook stove), refrigerator, and a sink with piped water were located in the same building as the living quarters being enumerated. They need not be in the same room. “Lacking complete kitchen facilities” included those conditions when all three specified kitchen facilities were present, but the equipment was located in a different building; some, but not all of the facilities were present; or none of the three specified kitchen facilities were present in the same building as the living quarters being enumerated.

Comparability – Data on complete kitchen facilities were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1970 and 1980, data for complete kitchen facilities were shown only for year round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units.

MORTGAGE STATUS

The Census obtained data on mortgage status from questionnaire items H34. “Mortgage” referred to all forms of debt where the property was pledged as security for repayment of the debt. It included such debt instruments as deeds of trust, trust deeds, contracts to purchase, land contracts, junior mortgages and home equity loans.

Comparability – In the Northern Mariana Islands, information on mortgage status was collected for the first time in 1980. It was collected only at owner-occupied one-family houses. Excluded were mobile homes, condominiums, houses with a business or medical office, and housing units in multi-unit buildings. For 1990 and 1995, the response categories were expanded to allow the respondent to report whether the unit was owned with a mortgage or free and clear (without a mortgage).

The Census added distinction between units owned with a mortgage and units owned free and clear in 1990 to improve the count of owner-occupied units. Research done in the United States after the 1980 census indicated some respondents did not consider their units owned if they had a mortgage.

PERSONS IN UNIT AND PERSONS PER ROOM

All persons occupying a housing unit were counted, including the householder, occupants related to the householder, and lodgers, rooms, boarders, and so forth.

The data on “persons in unit” show the number of housing units occupied by a specified number of persons. The phrase “persons in unit” was used for housing tabulations, “persons in households” for population items.

Median Persons in Unit – In computing median persons in unit, a whole number was used as the midpoint of an interval; thus, a unit with 5 persons was treated as an interval ranging from 3.5 to 4.5 persons. Median persons was rounded to the nearest hundredth. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Persons in Occupied Housing Units – Persons in Occupied Housing Units was the total population minus those persons living in group quarters. The Census computed “Persons per occupied housing unit” by dividing the population living in housing units by the number of occupied housing units. We obtained “Persons per room” by dividing the number of persons in each occupied housing unit by the number of rooms in the unit, and rounded persons per room to the nearest hundredth. The figures shown refer, therefore, to the number of occupied housing units having the specified ratio of persons per room.

Mean Persons Per Room – Mean Persons Per Room was computed by dividing persons in housing units by the aggregate number of rooms, and provided a measure of use. A higher mean might indicate a greater degree of use or crowding; a low mean may indicate under-use. (For more information on means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

PLUMBING FACILITIES

The Census obtained data on plumbing facilities from questionnaire items H10 which were asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. In the Northern Mariana Islands, a unit had complete plumbing facilities when the three facilities — piped water (either hot or cold), a flush toilet, and a bathtub or shower — were present, but they might be either in the unit being enumerated or outside the building in which the unit was located.

REFRIGERATOR

The Census obtained data on refrigerators from questionnaire item H26, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The refrigerator might be located in the housing unit or in a kitchen elsewhere in the building where the house was located. The category “No refrigerator” consisted of units using any type of cooling system other than an electric or gas refrigerator, or

units that did not have a refrigerator.

Comparability – In the Northern Mariana Islands, data on refrigerators were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1980, the data were shown only for occupied housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units. Also, the question asked if housing units had electric or gas refrigerators, replacing the mechanical and ice categories.

ROOMS

The Census obtained data on rooms from questionnaire item H8, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. The statistics on rooms were in terms of the number of housing units with a specified number of rooms. This question counted the number of whole rooms used for living purposes. For each unit, rooms included living rooms, dining rooms, kitchens, bedrooms, finished recreation rooms, enclosed porches suitable for year round use, and lodger's rooms. The Census excluded kitchenettes, strip or Pullman kitchens, bathrooms, open porches, balconies, halls or foyers, utility rooms, unfinished attics or basements, or other unfinished spaces used for storage. A partially divided room was a separate room only if it had a partition from floor to ceiling, but not if the partition consisted solely of shelves or cabinets.

Median Rooms – The measure Median Rooms was used to divide the room distribution into two equal parts, one –half of the cases falling below the median number of rooms and one –half above the median. In computing median rooms, the whole number was used as the midpoint of the interval; thus, the category “3 rooms” was treated as an interval ranging from 2.5 to 3.5 rooms. Median rooms was rounded to the nearest tenth. (For more information on medians, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Aggregate Rooms – An arbitrary value of “10” was assigned to rooms for units falling in the terminal category “9 or more” to calculate aggregate rooms. (For more information on aggregates and means, see the discussion under “Derived Measures.”)

Comparability – Data on rooms were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1970 and 1980, data were shown only for year –round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, the data were shown for all housing units.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Census obtained data on sewage disposal from questionnaire item H22, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Housing units were either connected to a public sewer, to a septic tank or cesspool, or they disposed of sewage by other means. A public sewer might be operated by a government body or by a private organization. A housing unit was considered to be connected to septic tank or cesspool when the unit had an underground pit or tank for sewage disposal. The category “Other means” included housing –units which disposed of sewage in some other way.

Comparability – Data on sewage disposal were collected for the first time in 1980, data were shown for all housing units.

SINK WITH PIPED WATER

The Census obtained data on sink with piped water from questionnaire item H27, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. A sink with piped water had to be inside the building where the housing unit being enumerated was located for the unit to be classified as having a sink with piped water.

Comparability – Data on sink with piped water were collected for the first time for the Northern Mariana Islands in 1990.

SOURCE OF WATER

The Census obtained data on source of water from questionnaire item H19, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Housing units might receive their water supply from a number of sources. The source might be in the building, in some other place on the property, or elsewhere. In the Northern Mariana Islands, a common source supplying water through underground pipes to five or more units was classified as (1) “A public (government) system only.” The water might be supplied by a municipal water system, water district, water company, etc., or it may be obtained from well which supplies water to five or more housing units. A source of water might be (2) “A public (government) system and catchment” if it had running water from a public (government) system and the unit also used a catchment. If a well on the property or a neighboring property served 4 or fewer housing units, the units were classified as having water supplied by (3) “an individual well.” Well water that was hand drawn, wind drawn, or engine drawn; piped or not piped; stored in tanks or used directly from the well was included. A source of water might be (4) “A catchment, tanks, or drums only” if the only source of water was a catchment, tanks, or drums, in which rainwater was collected. (5) “A public standpipe or street hydrant” was an elevated tank or a vertical storage cylinder or a street hydrant which was connected to a public system from which nearby residents draw water. The category (6) “Some other source...” included water obtained privately from springs, rivers, irrigation canals, creeks or other sources that were not listed.

Comparability – Data on source of water were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1970 and 1980, data were shown only for year –round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units.

TELEPHONE IN HOUSING UNIT

The Census obtained data on telephones from questionnaire item H15, which was asked at occupied housing units. A telephone had to be inside the house or apartment for the unit to be classified as having a telephone. Units where the respondent used a telephone located inside the building but not in the respondent's living quarters were classified as having no telephone.

Comparability – Data on telephones were collected for the first time in 1980. No change occurred in the telephone in housing unit definition between 1980 and 1995.

TELEVISION SET

The Census obtained data on television sets from questionnaire item H17, which was asked at occupied housing units. The set had to be in working order or being repaired. Television included floor, table, built-in, or portable models, or combinations with radios or record players whether “black and white” or “color.” The unit was classified as having “no television set” if the household had no television set or only had television sets other than in the housing unit.

Comparability – Data on television sets were collected for the first time in 1980. No change occurred in the television set definition for 1980, 1990, and 1995.

TENURE

The Census obtained data for tenure from questionnaire items H34 and H36, which were asked at all occupied housing units. All occupied housing units were classified as either owner occupied or renter occupied.

Owner Occupied – A housing unit was owner occupied if the owner or co-owner lived in the unit even if it was mortgaged or not fully paid for. The owner or co-owner had to live in the unit and usually was person 1 on the questionnaire. The unit was “owned by you or someone in this household with a mortgage or loan” if it was being purchased with a mortgage or some other debt arrangement such as a deed of trust, trust deed, contract to purchase, land contract, or purchase agreement. The unit was also considered owned with a mortgage if it was built on leased land and had a mortgage.

A housing unit was “Owned by you or someone in this household free and clear (without a mortgage)” if it had no mortgage or other similar debt on the house, apartment, or mobile home including units built on leased land if the unit was owned outright without a mortgage.

Renter Occupied – All occupied housing units which were not owner occupied, whether they were rented for cash rent or occupied without payment of cash rent, were classified as renter occupied. A housing unit was “Rented for cash rent” if any money rent was paid or contracted for. The rent might be paid by persons who were not living in the unit, such as a relative or friend living elsewhere; or it might be paid by a private company or organization, for example, a garment factory or welfare agency. “No cash rent” units were separately identified in the rent tabulation. Such units were generally provided free by friends or relatives or in exchange for services such as resident manager, caretaker, members of the clergy, or tenant farmer. Housing units on military bases were also classified in the “No cash rent” category.

Comparability – The data on tenure were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1970, the question on tenure also included a category for condominium and cooperative ownership. In 1980, condominium units and cooperatives were dropped from the tenure item.

TOILET FACILITIES

The Census obtained data on toilet facilities from questionnaire item H13, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. A flush toilet was connected to piped water and was emptied into a main sewer, septic tank, or cesspool. If the unit did not have a flush toilet, the respondent was asked to identify the type of toilet facilities as “Outhouse or privy” or “Other or none.”

Comparability – In the Northern Mariana Islands, data on toilet facilities were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1980, the data were not shown separately but were combined with data on water supply and bathtub or shower to determine the presence of complete plumbing facilities.

TYPE OF MATERIAL USED FOR FOUNDATION

The Census obtained data on type of material used for the foundation of the building from questionnaire item H7, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Housing units were classified according to the type of material used most in the construction of the foundation of the structure. The categories for types of materials used were: (1) “Concrete,” (2) “Wood pier or pilings,” or (3) “Other,” for all types of construction materials which could not be described by any of the other specific categories or if the unit had no foundation.

Comparability – Data on type of material used for foundation were collected for the first time in 1990.

TYPE OF MATERIAL USED FOR OUTSIDE WALLS

The Census obtained data on type of material used for the outside walls of the building from questionnaire item H5, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. We classified housing units according to the type of material used most in the construction of the outside walls of the structure. The categories for type of materials used were: (1) “Poured concrete,” (2) “Concrete blocks,” (the wall may be covered with plaster cement); (3) “Metal,” including zinc, steel, tin, etc.; (4) “Wood,” including wood boards, plywood, etc.; or (5) “Other,” for all other types of construction materials which could not be described by any of the specific categories.

Comparability – In the Northern Mariana Islands, data on type of construction were first collected in 1980 only for year-round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units and the category t-hatch was dropped from the questionnaire.

TYPE OF MATERIAL USED FOR ROOF

The Census obtained data on type of material used for the roof of the building from questionnaire item H6, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. We classified housing units according to the type of material used most in the construction of the roof of

the structure. The categories for types of materials used are: (1) "Poured concrete," (2) "Metal," including zinc, steel, tin, etc.; (3) "Wood," including wood boards, plywood, etc.; (4) "Thatch, including sugar cane leaves, palm or pandanus thatch, palm leaves, straw, etc.; or (5) "Other," for all other types of construction materials which cannot be described by any of the specific categories.

Comparability – Data on type of material used for roofs were collected for the first time in 1980 and were shown only for year-round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units.

UNITS IN STRUCTURE

The Census obtained data on units in structure (also referred to as "type of structure") from questionnaire item H2, which was asked at all housing units. In the Northern Mariana Islands a structure was a separate building that either had open spaces on all four sides or was separated from other structures by dividing walls that extend from ground to roof. In determining the number of units in a structure, all housing units, both occupied and vacant, were counted. Stores or office space were excluded.

The statistics were presented for the Northern Mariana Islands for the number of housing units in structures of specified type and size, not for the number of residential buildings.

1–Unit, Detached – A one unit structure detached was not connected to any other structure, that is, had open space on all four sides. The Census considered such structures detached even if they had an adjoining shed or garage. A one-family house which contained a business was considered detached as long as the building had open space on all four sides. We also included mobile homes or trailers to which one or more permanent rooms had been added or built.

1–Unit, Attached – a one unit structure attached had one or more walls extending from ground to roof separating it from adjoining structures. In row houses (sometimes called townhouses), double houses, or houses attached to non-residential structures, each house was a separate, attached structure if the dividing or common wall went from ground to roof.

2 or More Units – The Census categorized structures containing 2 or more housing units, further as units in structures with 2, 3 or 4, 5 to 9, 10 to 19, 20 to 49, and 50 or more units.

Mobile Home or Trailer – Both occupied and vacant mobile homes to which no permanent rooms had been added were counted in this category. Mobile homes or trailers used only for business purposes or for extra sleeping space and mobile homes or trailers for sale

on a dealer's lot or in storage were not counted in the housing inventory.

Other – This category was for any living quarters occupied as a housing unit that did not fit the previous categories. Examples that fit this category included abandoned cars, campers, vans, and shacks.

Comparability – In the Northern Mariana Islands, data on units in structure were collected for the first time in 1970. In 1970 and 1980, data for units in structure were shown only for year-round housing units. In 1990 and 1995, the Census showed data for all housing units. The category "Boat" was replaced in 1995 by the category "Other."

UTILITIES

The Census obtained data on utility costs from questionnaire items H29 through H32, which were asked of occupied housing units.

Questions H29 through H32 asked for the average monthly cost of utilities (electricity, gas, water) and other fuels (oil, coal, wood, kerosene, etc.). They were included in the computation of "Gross Rent," "Gross Rent as a Percentage of Household Income in 1994," "Selected Monthly Owner Costs," and "Selected Monthly Owner Costs as a Percentage of Household Income in 1994."

Costs were recorded if paid by or billed to occupants, a welfare agency, relatives, or friends. The Census excluded costs that were paid by landlords, included in the rent payment, or included in condominium or cooperative fees.

Limitation of the Data – Caution should be exercised in using these data for direct analysis because costs were not reported for certain kinds of units such as renter-occupied units with all utilities included such as condominium units.

Comparability – The data on utility costs were collected for the first time in 1980 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1990 and 1995, "...average monthly costs for gas" was asked separately from "oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc." In 1980, "gas" was included in the "oil, coal, kerosene, wood, etc." category.

VACANCY STATUS

The Census obtained data on vacancy status from questionnaire item C1, which was completed by census enumerators. Enumerators obtained vacancy status and other characteristics of vacant units from landlords, owners, neighbors, rental agents, and others. Vacant units were subdivided according to their housing market classification as follows:

For Rent – These were vacant units offered "for rent" and vacant units offered either "for rent" or "for sale."

For Sale Only – These were vacant units being offered "for sale only," including units in cooperatives and condominium projects if the individual units were offered "for sale only."

Rented or sold, not Occupied – If any money rent had been paid or agreed upon but the new renter had not moved in as of the date of enumeration, or if the unit had recently been sold but the new owner had not yet moved in, the vacant unit was classified as "rented or sold, not occupied."

For Seasonal, Recreational, or Occasional Use – These were vacant units used or intended for use only in certain seasons or for weekend or other occasional use throughout the year. Seasonal units included those used for summer or winter sports or recreation, such as beach cottages and hunting cabins. Seasonal units might also include quarters for such workers as herders, loggers, fish packers, and other workers not employed in farm work. Interval ownership units, sometimes called shared ownership or time-sharing condominiums also were included here.

For Migrant Workers – These include vacant units intended for occupancy by migratory workers employed in farm work during the crop season. (Work in cannery, a freezer plant, or a food-processing plant was not farm work.)

Other Vacant – If a vacant unit did not fall into any of the classifications specified above, it was classified as "other vacant". For example, this category included units held for occupancy by a caretaker or janitor, and units held for personal reasons of the owner.

Homeowner Vacancy Rate – This was the percentage relationship of the number of vacant units for sale and the total homeowner inventory. It was computed by dividing the number of vacant units for sale only by the sum of the owner-occupied units and the number of vacant units that were for sale only.

Rental Vacancy Rate – This was the percentage relationship of the number of vacant units for rent to the total rental inventory. It was computed by dividing the number of vacant units for rent by the sum of the renter-occupied units and the number of vacant units for rent.

Comparability – Data on vacancy status were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. For 1990 and 1995, the category "seasonal/recreational/occasional use" combined vacant units classified in 1980 as "seasonal or migratory" and "held for occasional use."

VALUE

The Census obtained data on value (also referred to as "price asked" for vacant units) from questionnaire item H35, which was asked at one-family houses, condominiums, and mobile homes that were owned, being bought, or vacant for sale at the time of enumeration. In the Northern Mariana Islands, value was the respondent's estimate of how much the property (house and lot, mobile home and lot, or condominium unit) would sell for if it were for sale. If the house or mobile home was owned or being bought, but the land on which it sits was not, the respondent was asked to estimate the combined value of the house or mobile home and the land. For vacant units, value was the price asked for the property.

Specified owner-occupied and specified vacant-for-sale only housing units included only one-family houses without a business or medical office on the property. The data for "specified" units excluded mobile homes, houses with a business or medical office, and housing units in multi-unit buildings.

Comparability – Data on value were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1980, data on value of mobile homes were not collected. In 1990 and 1995, the question was asked also of mobile homes.

VEHICLES AVAILABLE

The Census obtained data on vehicles available from questionnaire item H28, which was asked at occupied housing units. These data show the number of households with a specified number of passenger cars, vans, pickup or panel trucks of one-ton capacity or less kept at home and available for the use of household members. Vehicles rented or leased for one month or more, company vehicles, and police and government vehicles were included if kept at home and used for nonbusiness purposes. Dismantled or immobile vehicles were excluded. Vehicles kept at home but used only for business purposes also were excluded.

Vehicles Per Household – This was computed by dividing aggregate vehicles available by the number of occupied housing units.

Limitations of the Data – The statistics do not measure the number of vehicles privately owned nor the number of households owning vehicles.

Comparability – Data on automobiles available were collected for the Northern Mariana Islands for the first time in 1980. No change occurred in the vehicles available definition between 1990 and 1995.

WATER SUPPLY

The Census obtained data on water supply (also referred to as "piped water") from questionnaire items H19, H20, and H21 which were asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Piped water means a supply of water was

available at a sink, wash basin, bathtub, or shower. If both hot and cold water were available, the Census obtained type of energy used by the water heater. The types of energy identified were electricity, gas, solar, or other fuels. Hot water need not be supplied continuously. Hot water supplied by electric faucet attachment at the kitchen sink, an electric shower attachment, etc., was not considered to be hot piped water. Piped water might be located within the unit itself, or it might be in the hallway, or in a room used by several units in the building. It might even be necessary to go outdoors to reach that part of the building in which the piped water was located.

Comparability – The data on water supply were collected for the first time in 1970 for the Northern Mariana Islands. In 1980, the data were shown only for year-round housing units and were shown separately by type of energy used to heat the water, as well as combined with data on bathtub or shower and flush toilet to determine the presence of complete plumbing facilities. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units and tabulations similar to 1980 were presented.

YEAR HOUSEHOLDER MOVED INTO UNIT

The Census obtained data on year householder moved into unit from questionnaire item H3, which was asked at occupied housing units. These data referred to the year of the latest move by the householder. If a householder moved back into a housing unit he or she previously occupied, the year of the latest move was reported. If the householder moved from one apartment to another within the same building, the year that the householder moved in was not necessarily the same year other members of the household moved, although in the great majority of cases an entire household moved at the same time.

Comparability – Data on year householder moved into unit were collected for the first time in 1980. For 1990 and 1995, the response categories were modified to accommodate moves during the intercensal periods.

YEAR STRUCTURE BUILT

The Census obtained data on year structure built from questionnaire item H4, which was asked at both occupied and vacant housing units. Data on year structure built referred to when the building was first constructed, not when it was remodeled, added to or converted. For housing units under construction which met the housing unit definition – that is, all exterior windows, doors, and final usable floors were in place – the category “1994 to March 1995” was used. For a houseboat or mobile home or trailer, the manufacturer’s model year was assumed to be the year built. The figures shown in census data products relate to the number of units built during the specified periods and still in existence at the time of enumeration.

Median Year Structure Built – The median divides the

distribution into two equal parts. The median was rounded to the nearest calendar year. Median age of housing could be obtained by subtracting median year structure built from 1995. For example, if the median year structure built was 1957, the age of housing in that area was 38 years (1995 minus 1957).

Limitation of the Data – Data on year structure built were more susceptible to errors of response and nonreporting than data on many other items since respondents had to rely on their memory or on estimates of persons who had lived in the neighborhood a long time. Available evidence indicated underreporting occurred in the older year built categories, especially those built in “1939 or earlier.” The introduction of the “Don’t know” category (see below the discussion on “Comparability”) might have resulted in relatively higher allocation rates. Data users should refer to the discussion Appendix C, Accuracy of the Data and also to the allocation tables.

Comparability – Data on year structure built were collected for the Northern Mariana Islands for the first time in 1970 and were shown only for year-round housing units through 1980. In 1990 and 1995, data were shown for all housing units and also the response categories have been modified to accommodate units built during the intercensal period. In 1990, the category “Don’t know” was added in an effort to minimize the response error mentioned in the paragraph above on limitation of the data.

DERIVED MEASURES

Census data products include various derived measures such as medians, means, and percentages, as well as certain rates and ratios. Derived measures which round to less than 0.1 were not shown but indicated as zero. In printed reports, zero was indicated by showing a dash (–).

Interpolation

Interpolation was frequently used in calculating medians based on interval data and in approximating standard errors from tables. Linear interpolation was used to estimate values of a function between two known values.

Mean

This measure represents an arithmetic average of a set of values. It is derived by dividing the sum of numerical items (or average) by the total number of items. Aggregates are used in computing mean values. For example, mean family income was obtained by dividing the aggregate of all income reported by persons in families by the total number of families. (Additional information on means and aggregates is included in the separate explanation of many population and housing subjects.)

Median

This value represents the middle value in a distribution. The median divides the total frequency into two equal parts: one-half of the cases fall below the median and one-half of cases exceed the median. The median is computed on the basis of the distribution as tabulated, which is sometimes more detailed than the distribution shown in specific census publications and other data products.

In reports, if the median falls within the upper interval of the tabulation distribution, the median is shown as the initial value of the interval followed by a plus sign (+), if within the lower interval, the median is shown as the upper value of the category followed by a minus sign (–).

For summary tape files, if the median falls within the upper or lower interval, it is set to a specified value. (Additional information on medians is included in the separate explanations of many population and housing subjects.)

Percentages, Rates, and Ratios

These measures are frequently presented in census products to compare two numbers or two sets of measurements. These comparisons are made in two ways: (1) Subtraction, which provides an absolute measure of the difference between two items, and (2) the quotient of two numbers, which provides a relative measure of difference.